BERSERK

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28

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

ベルセルク

BERSERK ㉘

BY

KENTARO MIURA

三浦建太郎

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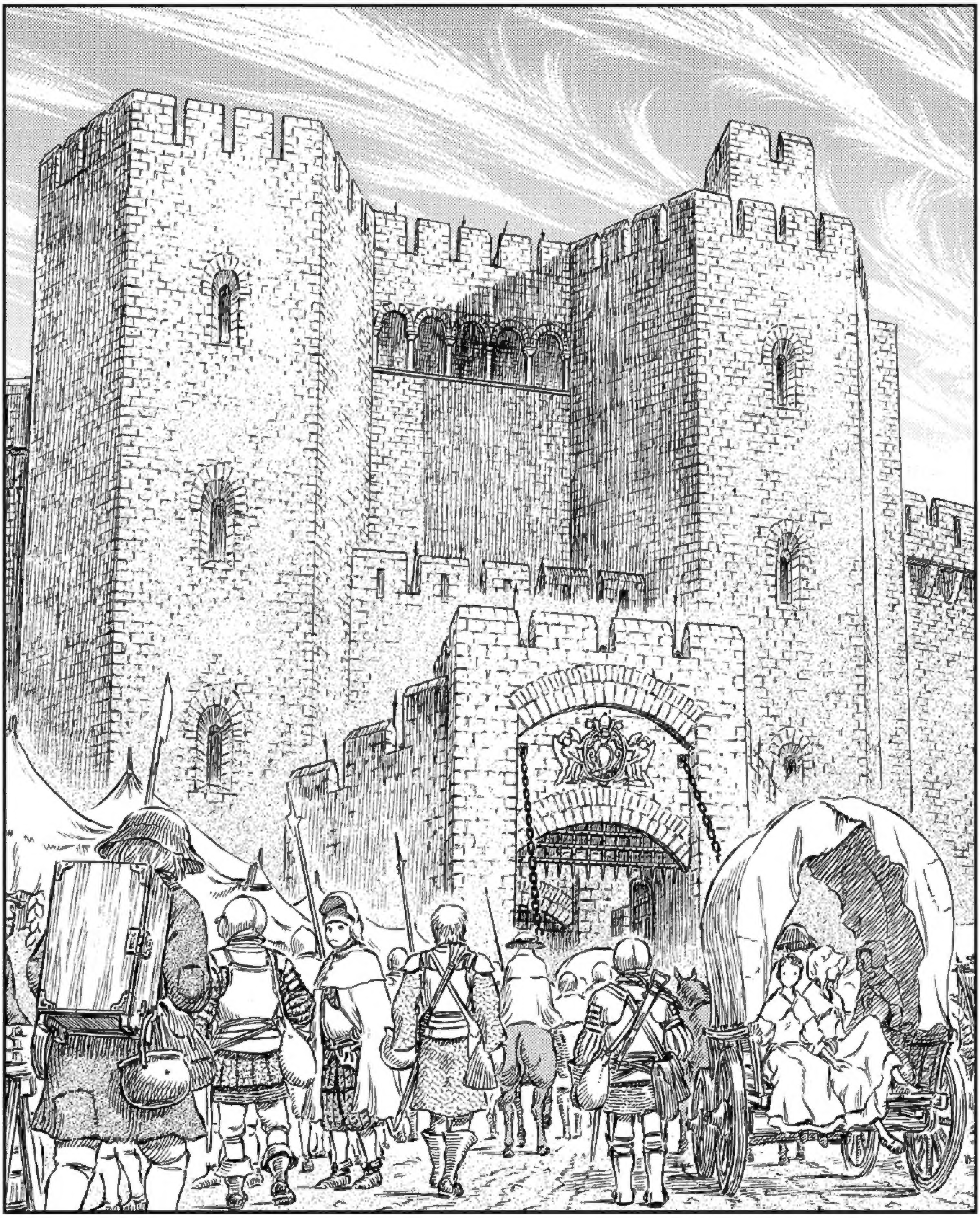

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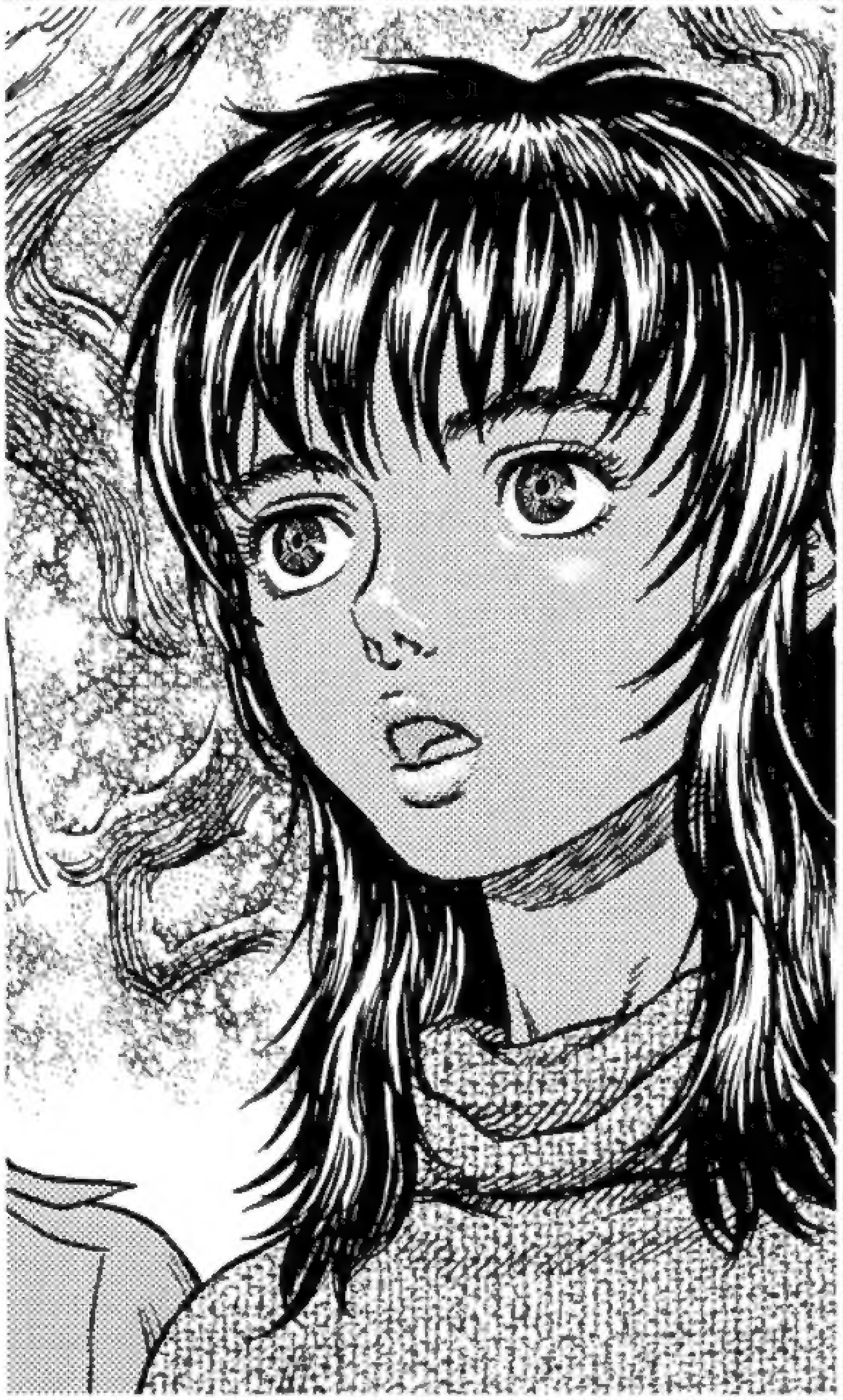
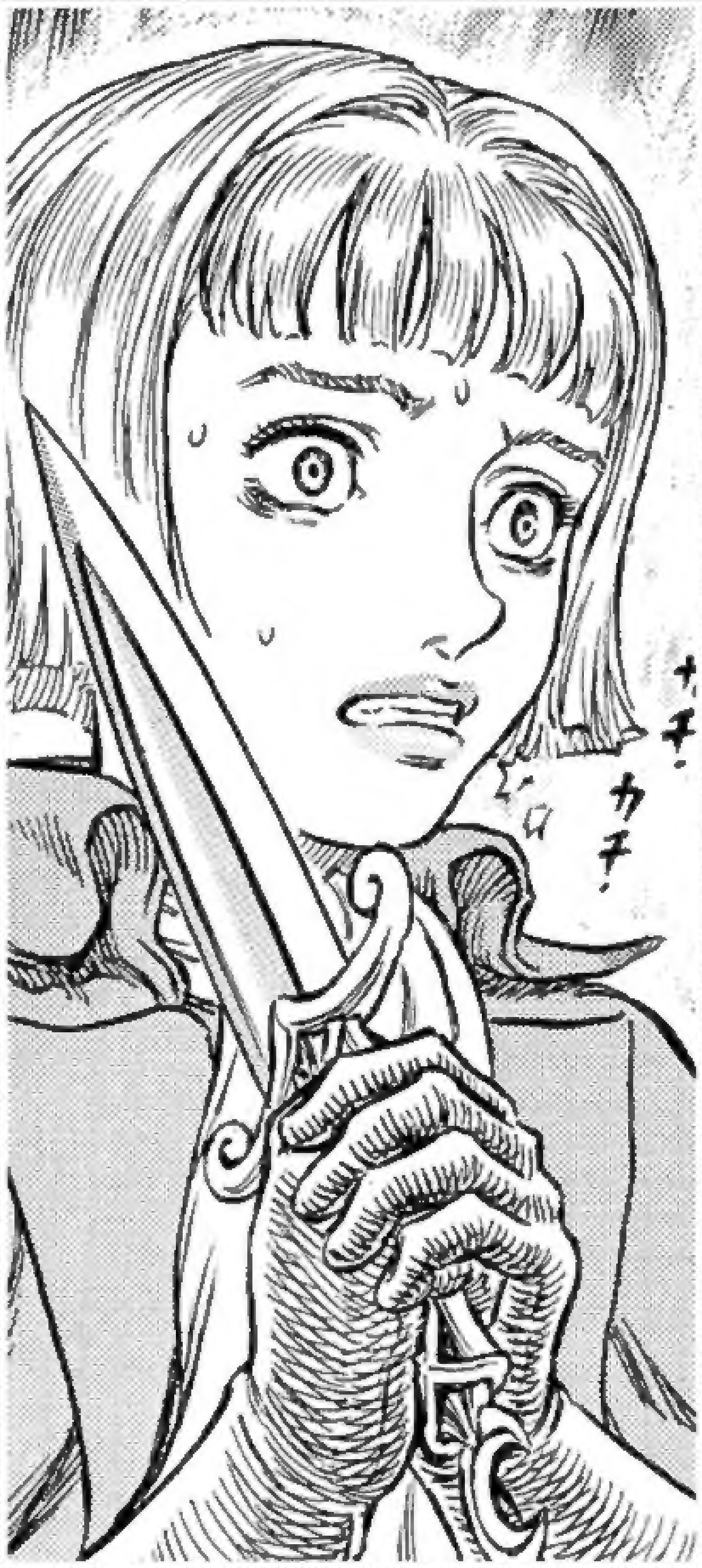


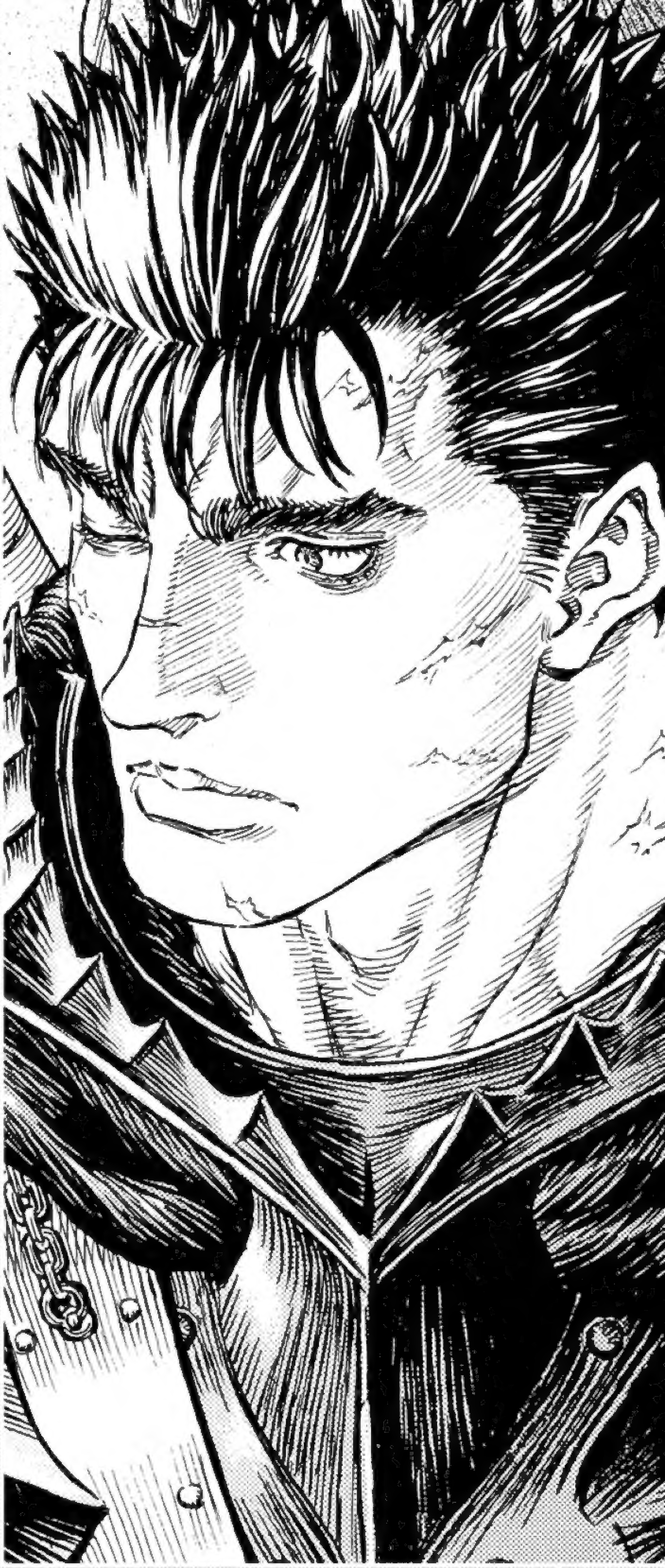
キャスカ Casca

Former unit commander of the Band of the Hawk—mentally regressed from her experience in the Eclipse. She now neither speaks nor conveys any feelings. Her Brand, which reacts to evil, is thinly shielded by Flora's talisman.



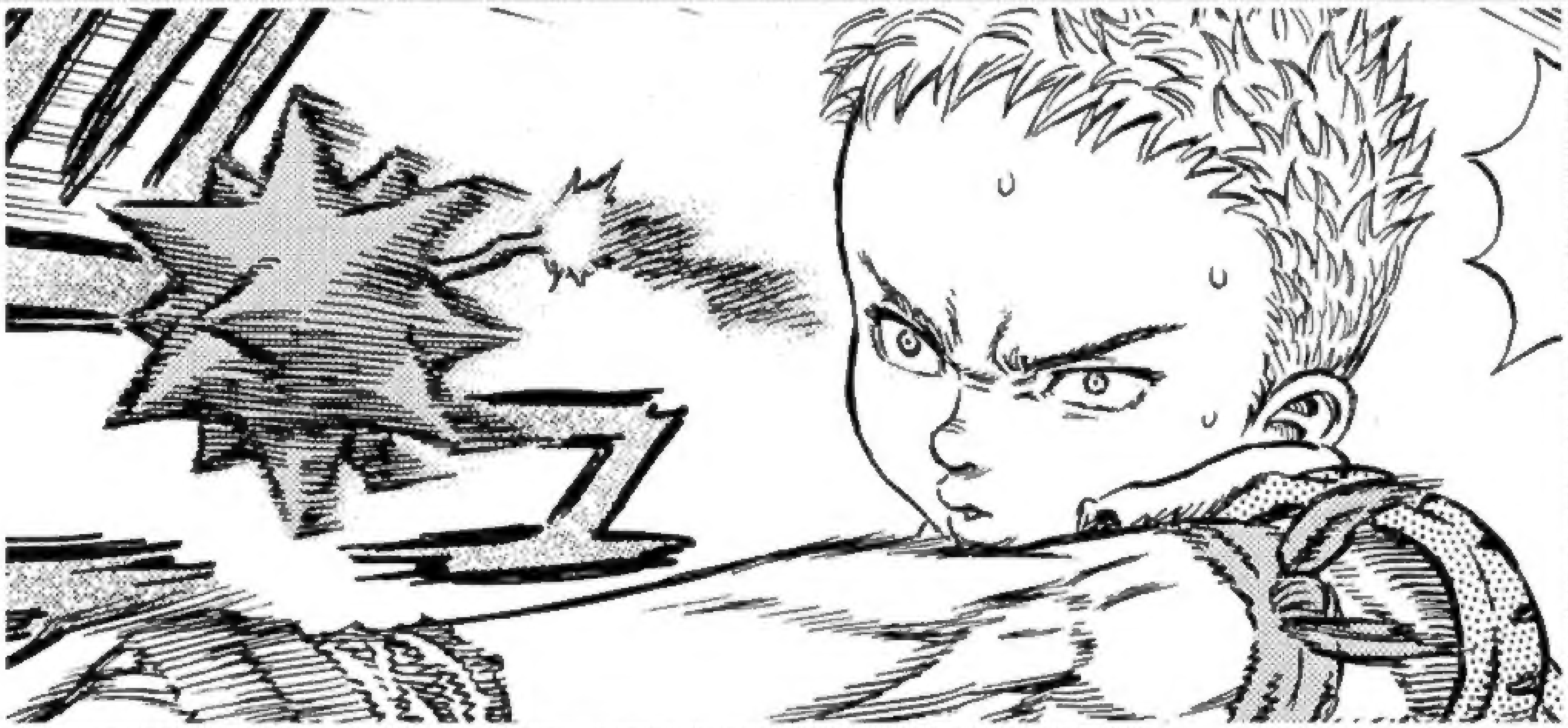
ファルネーゼ Farnese

Former commander of the Holy See's Holy Iron Chain Knights, and daughter of the Vandimion family, one of influential status and wealth in the religious sphere. She seeks to learn from Guts her own means of survival and about the reality of the world.



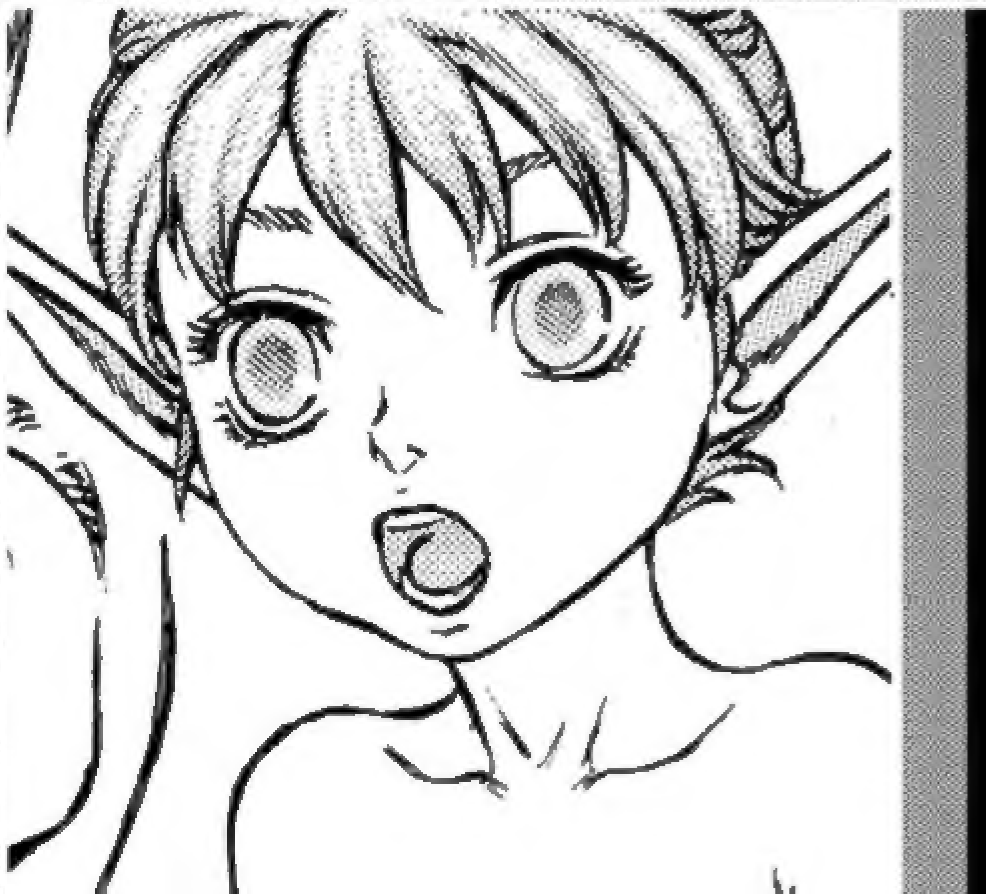
ガッツ Guts

The Black Swordsman. He exists in the Interstice, wears the Berserker armor, and his soul constantly torn between protecting Casca and challenging Griffith. That struggle is nothing short of sublime.



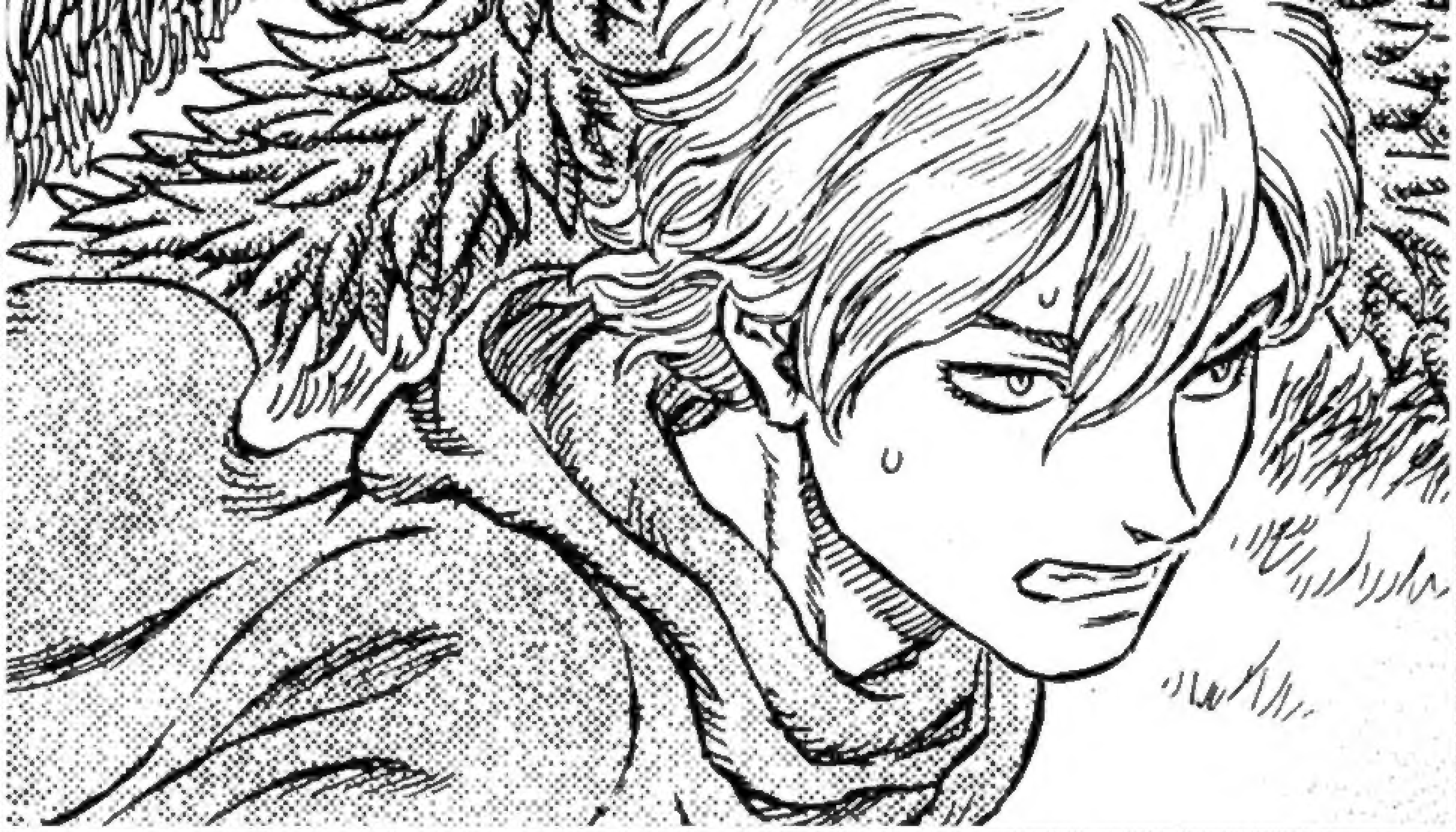
イシドロ Isidro

Dreams of being the "ultimate swordsman," but his actual talent, not up to snuff, repeatedly endangers him. Nevertheless, the boy endeavors toward his dream. He is currently equipped with a fetish granted the protection of fire elementals.



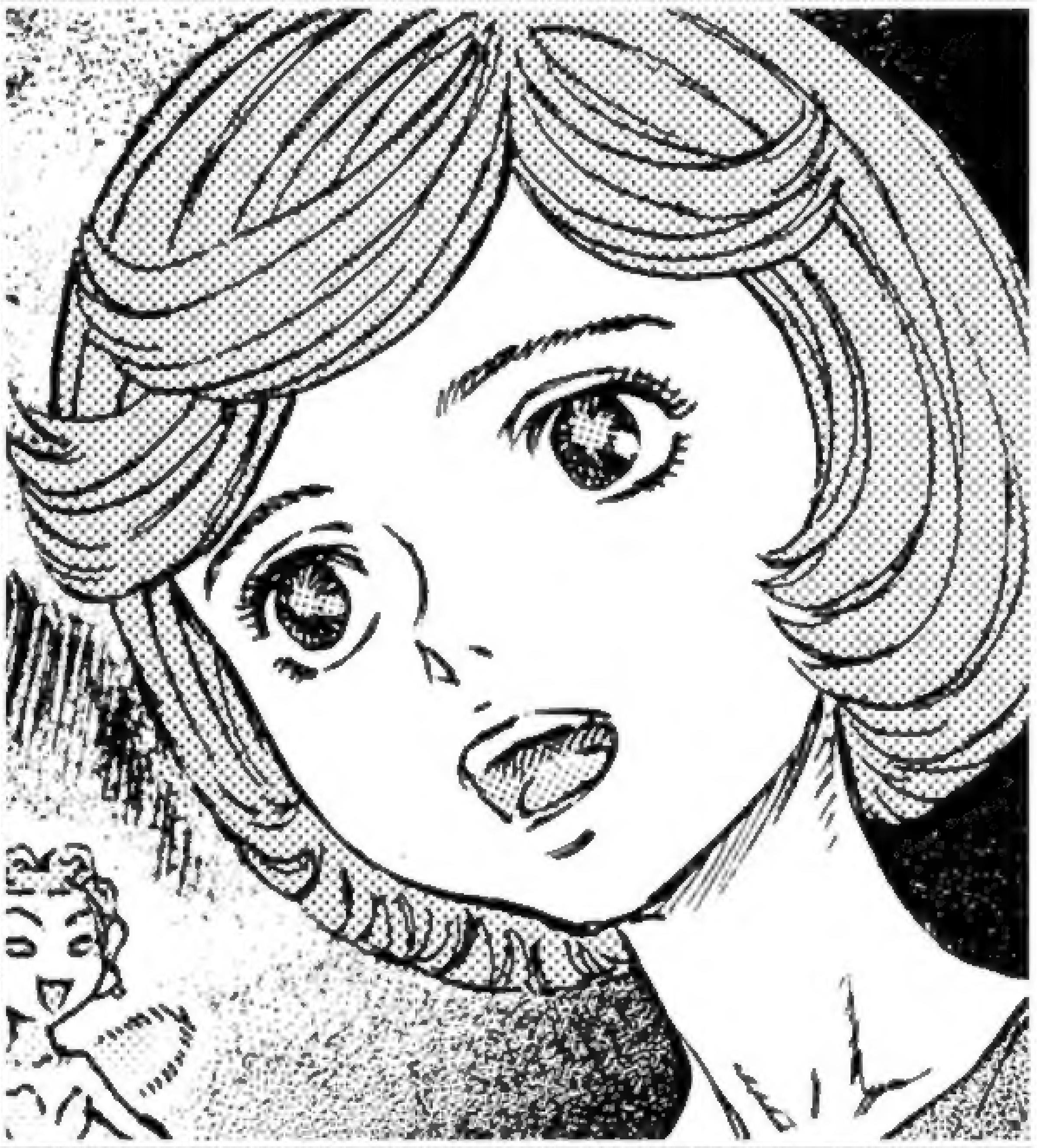
パック Puck

An elf who's long been with Guts on his journeys. His dust has the power to heal wounds. He recently revealed that he's an elemental wind spirit, and he also changes into Chestnut Puck.



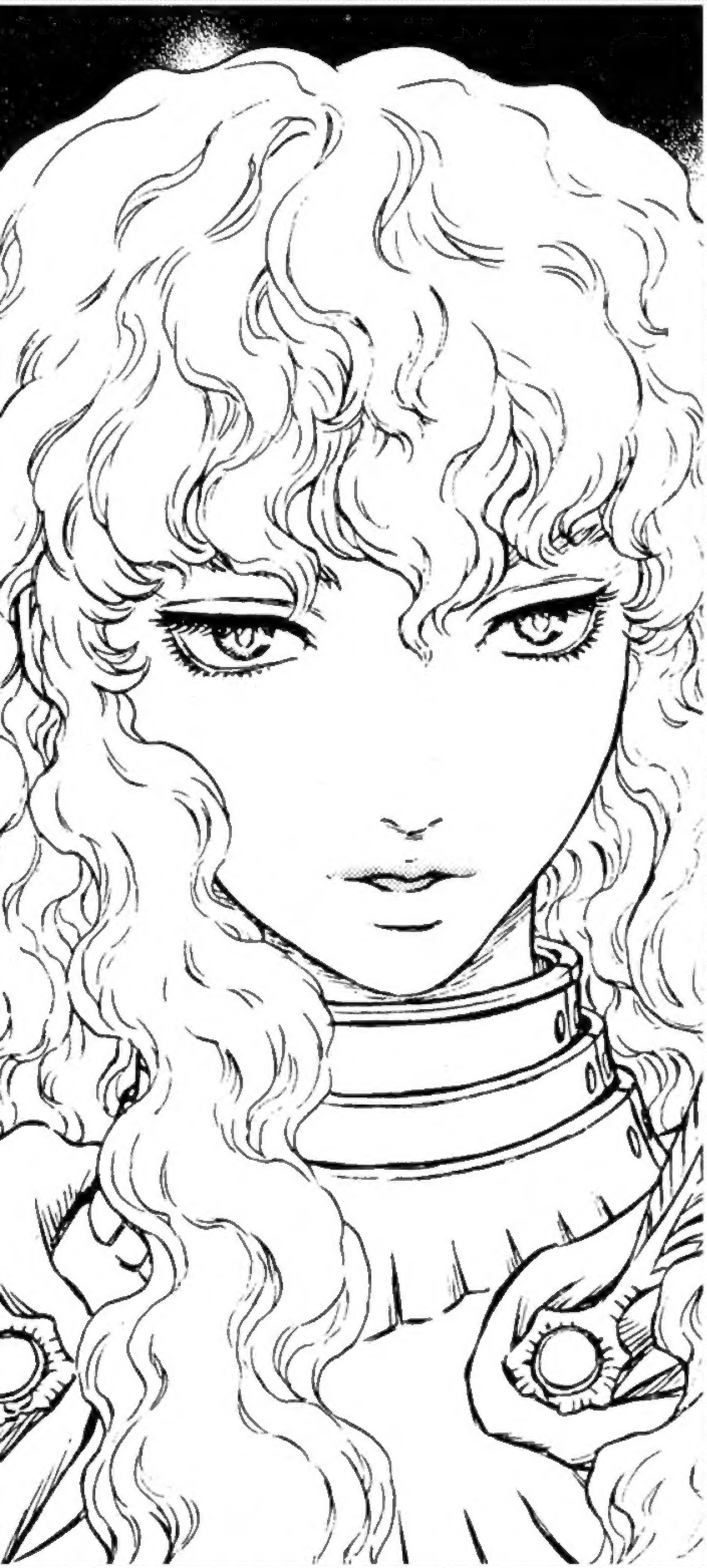
セルピコ Serpico

Attendant of Farnese, and actually her brother; however, she is not aware of the blood relationship. He is skilled in fighting and is currently clad in a fetish granted the protection of wind elementals.



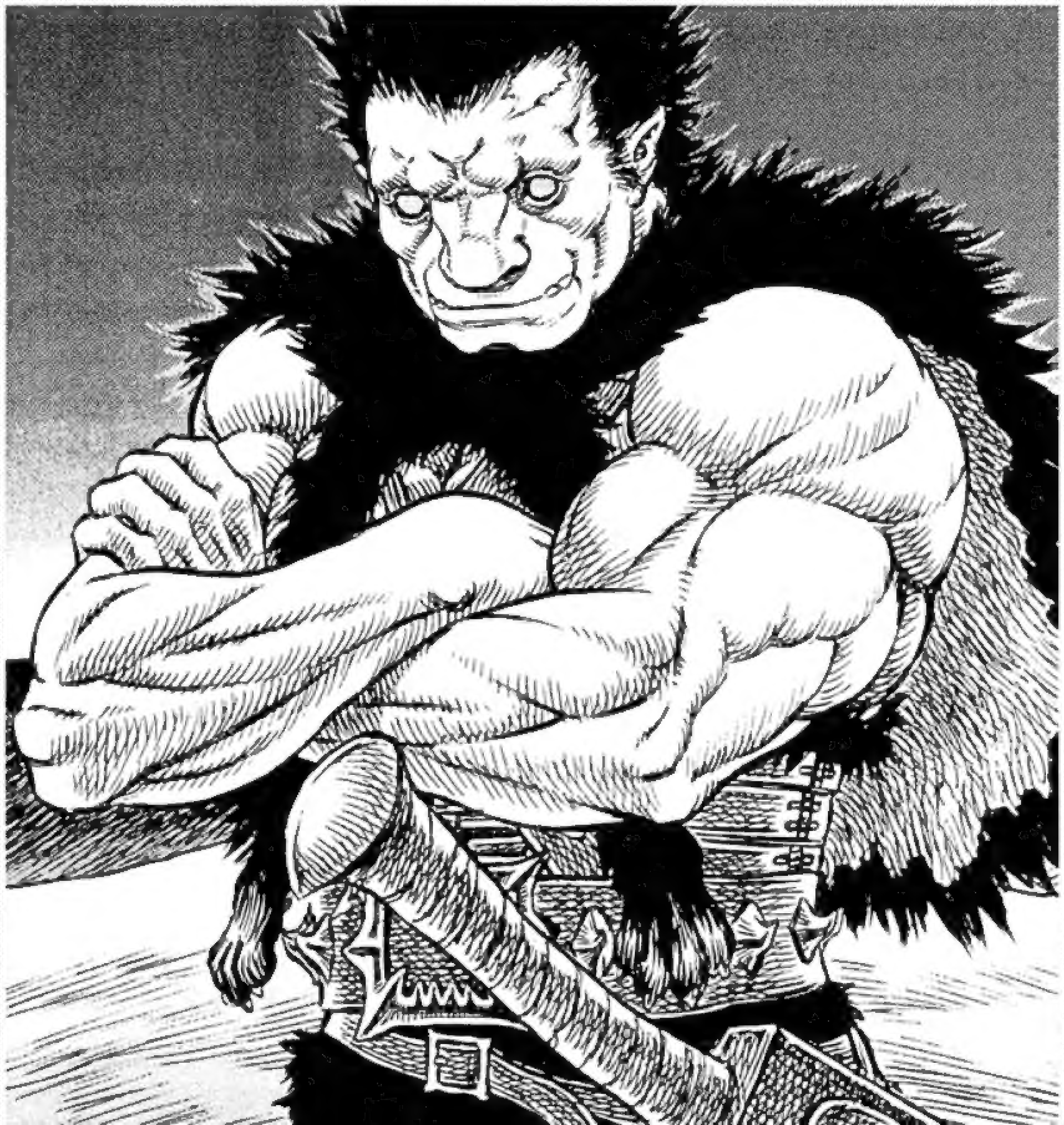
シールケ Schierke

Disciple of Flora, witch of the Spirit Tree mansion. She supports Guts and the others through her use of magic; however, among her spells are some beyond her mastery, which occasionally place her in great peril as she tries to aid her allies. She has a stilted side to her personality.



グリフィス Griffith

Through the Eclipse of the Crimson Behelit, he was reborn as Femto of the Godhand. Later he was incarnated in the imitation Eclipse catalyzed by the egg-shaped apostle, thus returning to the physical world, in which he became the "absolute," without equal. He leads the reborn Band of the Hawk.



ゾッド Zodd

Nosferatu Zodd, the apostle with two names. He was unrivaled in his thirst for battle against the strong. But, defeated by Griffith, he is now part of the new Band of the Hawk.

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*FX: D-DOOOOSSSH

HEY, LET'S GO BACK, SCHIERKE.
THE OCEAN'S KINDA *CREEPY* AT NIGHT.
I SAY, HEYYY.
告げられし兆し
PROCLAIMED OMENS
OUT FOR A STROLL ?
IT'S DEFINITELY HARD TO CATCH ANY SLEEP...
...IN THIS MOONLIGHT.

GUTS...
YOU CANNOT SLEEP EITHER?
PRETTY MUCH.
WHY MUST YOU WEAR YOUR SWORD? IT WILL OVERTAX YOU.
HABIT. I JUST CAN'T RELAX WITHOUT IT.
YOUR WOUNDS MIGHT HURT, BUT EVEN A FORCED REST WOULD HELP...
PUT YOURSELF IN OUR SHOES.
I DON'T CARE MUCH FOR THE NIGHT SEA.
HEY, YOU LISTENIN'?
WHEN YOU STARE OUT AT IT...
...IT GETS TO FEELIN' LIKE...
...YOU'LL BE SUCKED TO THE BOTTOM OF THOSE PITCH-BLACK SWELLS.

I HAVE... NEVER SEEN THE SEA BEFORE.
MY MISTRESS SPOKE OF IT.
SHE SAID IT LEADS TO THE ASTRAL WORLD.
BEAUTIFUL, GRACEFUL, OMINOUS, AND DREADFUL.
A SPECTACLE THAT TOUCHES EVERYONE'S HEARTSTRINGS IN SUCH A WAY.
SUCH A PLACE ***MUST*** BE CONNECTED TO THE ASTRAL WORLD, SHE SAID.
ALL I DID AT THE TIME WAS IMAGINE IT, BUT...
...STANDING AT THE SEASIDE LIKE THIS, I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE MEANT, FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I'M NOW IN A PLACE I DON'T RECOGNIZE.
THOUGH IT'S BEEN BUT SEVERAL DAYS SINCE THEN, IT FEELS LIKE I'VE COME A VERY LONG WAY.

I'VE SET OUT...
...UPON A JOURNEY WITHOUT RETURN.
ボフ
*BOFF
YOU'RE TRYIN' TOO HARD...
...YOU KNOW.
YOU ONLY DISTRACT YOURSELF LIKE THAT...
SO CLEVERLY SET IN YOUR OWN WAYS, WORRYIN' ABOUT EVERYONE BUT YOURSELF.

I-I WOULD NEVER...!
IF YOU KEEP THAT UP NOW AS A KID...
...YOU'LL BE OLD BEFORE YOUR TIME.
I BET *YOU'D* KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT.
....
Y...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY!
WHEN, THROUGH DEATH, WE MAGIC USERS PART WITH A LOVED ONE...
...IT CARRIES A DIFFERENT MEANING THAN FOR YOU OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
TO *US,* WHO LIVE IN BOTH WORLDS, DEATH IS NOT AN END...
...BUT AN EMERGENCE INTO A NEW, GREAT EXISTENCE... IT IS NEVER...
SCHIERKE...

NEVER...
...CAUSE FOR SADNESS ...
*ZHZZHAAAAAN

I FEEL RELIEVED, IN A WAY.
GOOD.
MY EYES AND NOSE...
...STING FROM THE SEA BREEZE.
TO BE HONEST...
...SO DO I.
ALL OVER...
AHAHH!
YOU *ARE* PUSHING YOURSELF.
HMHM...

*FX: SNFF

*FLIP FLIP
*FLAP FLAP
*FIDGET
MHMHMHMHMHMHMMM
A-HA! LOOK HOW FAST YOU'RE GROWIN' UP.
*NUDGE
HUH ...?
NEVER WOULDA GUESSED HER FIRST ONE'D BE AN...OLDER GUY LIKE HIM? MAYBE SOME KINDA FATHER COMPLEX?
BUT I GUESS HE IS A LOT BETTER THAN THE OTHER TWO.
ONE'S A PUSHOVER HOUSEMAID... AND THE OTHER'S... OUT OF THE QUESTION. OH, AND A MONKEY AT THAT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HEY... IVALERA.
*FX: TURN
*FX: STRUGGLE
A GIRL'S FIRST FLOWERIN' FEELIN'S, FOR THIS WILD OLDER MAN!
EEEEK!♡ I'M TICKLED PINK!♡ IT'S SO LOVELY!♡
*FLAIL
HMPH. ELVES...
*FX. NO NO NO NO
?!
WH- WHAT IS IT?
COM- PANY.
YOU.
!
STILL SURVIVIN', HUH?

I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU.
WHO?
THIS PERSON...
I'VE BEEN OWIN' YOU LOTS OF FAVORS LATELY...NOT LIKE THAT'S NEW.
SO FOR NOW ANYWAY, THANKS.
SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
I DOUBT IT'S TO CHECK ON MY RECOVERY.
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOUR BEIN' HERE...
...MEANS THERE'S AN *APOSTLE* NEARBY.
ザザァァ ァ.ァ...
*ZHAZHAAAA

COLOR FADES FROM THE EYES.
THE TONGUE LOSES TASTE.
SHIVERING PLAGUES THE FINGERTIPS.
WHA ...?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT...?
....
IT'S AN OMEN.
EACH TIME YOU WEAR THAT ARMOR AND FIGHT AS THE *BERSERKER*...
LIGHT ...
VOICE ...
WARMTH ...
YOU WILL COME TO LOSE MANY THINGS.

THAT SOUNDS ABOUT NASTY ENOUGH FOR A CURSED ITEM FROM OUR PLACE.
OH!
SORRY ...
NO...!
HEH!
SOUNDS NASTY, ALL RIGHT.
AS ALWAYS, YOU TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, BUT...
...SORRY, THAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.
I'LL NEVER LOSE MYSELF THAT WAY AGAIN.
NEXT TIME I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN HANDLE THIS THING WITH *TEMPERANCE.*
....
AS HE SAYS, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.
ZHA

WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
I WON'T...
...LET THAT HAPPEN.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HELPED US AT QLIPHOTH AND THE FOREST OF THE SPIRIT TREE.
HE IS?
DON'T STEAL MY THUNDER.
UN-NEEDED HELP.
IN THAT RESPECT, YOU WERE MOST HELPFUL.
BUT BEGGING YOUR PARDON, JUST WHAT KIND...
...OF RELATIONSHIP DID YOU HAVE WITH MY MISTRESS?
SHE CLAIMED THE BERSERKER ARMOR WAS A VERY DANGEROUS FETISH AND PRUDENTLY APPLIED A SEAL TO IT...
...YET SHE ALWAYS GAZED UPON IT SOMEWHAT LONGINGLY.

*FX: BOW

IS NOT THIS SUIT OF ARMOR SOMETHING ONCE WORN BY YOURSELF?
!
ZHAAAAAAAA
....
YOU ARE QUITE SHREWD, AS I SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE DEAREST STUDENT...
...OF THE WITCH OF THE SPIRIT TREE FOREST.
INDEED.
THAT ARMOR IS SOMETHING I *ONCE* WORE.
IN THE DISTANT PAST...
...WHEN WE LIVED WITHIN THE REASON OF TIME.
REASON OF TIME...
THAT MEANS HE'S--

WE WERE FRIENDS.
EXACTLY LIKE THE TWO OF YOU NOW.
!
THE OD THAT DWELLS IN THAT ARMOR IS AS A FLAME WHICH NEVER DIES OUT. EVEN ONCE CONTAINED, THE COALS YET SMOLDER. GIVEN THE CHANCE, IT WILL EXPLODE INTO HELLFIRE.
EVEN WITH AN APPLIED TALISMAN...
...NEVER MAKE LIGHT OF IT.

IF YOU...
...WISH TO CONTINUE EXISTING AS A HUMAN, THAT IS.
THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS. WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD YOU FILL ME IN?
WHY'D THEY...
WHY'D THE APOSTLES ATTACK THE OLD LADY'S MANSION?
!
THE HAWK HAS BUT ONE GOAL.
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT BETTER THAN ANYONE.

HE NOW EXISTS BEYOND THE REASON OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD...
...WHERE NO ONE IN THE MORTAL REALM CAN THREATEN HIM.
IT WOULD BE AKIN TO SOMEONE IN A STORY CHALLENGING THE ONE WHO WROTE IT.
IT CANNOT BE DONE.
TO STAND AND CONFRONT THE HAWK...
...ONE MUST ALSO EXIST OUTSIDE THE STORY.
THEN THE REASON MY MISTRESS WAS...?!
HE MUST HAVE CONSIDERED ONE WITCH...
...TO BE MORE OF AN OBSTACLE THAN A HOST OF TEN THOUSAND.
ALL THE MORE SO AS A POWERFUL WIELDER OF MAGIC.
THAT'S...
SCHIERKE...
...UNFORGIVABLE...

IF YOU CONTINUE ON WITH YOUR JOURNEY...
...YOU'LL SOON ENCOUNTER THE APOSTLES AGAIN.
!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
AND THEN...
...PERHAPS LEADING THEM WILL BE...
...THE HAWK.
GUTS...

HE'S...
...
COMING
...
ドクン
*BATHUMP
ザワ
*SHHHOF
ザワ
*SHHHOF

ザワ ザワッ
SHHHOF
SHHHOF
GUTS!!
...!!

TO PROTECT, OR TO CONTEND?
YOU WILL CONTINUE TO QUERY YOUR OWN SOUL.
IT'S YOUR FATE AS A MAN WHO STANDS...
...IN THE *INTERSTICE.*
HOWEVER, I OFFER THIS HOPE.

ELFHELM, THE LAND YOU SEEK.
THE LORD OF THE ELVES WHO SITS THERE...
...IS CALLED KING HANAFUBUKU.
KING HANAFUBUKU?!
HE IS THE KING OF THE ELVES, REPUTED IN LEGEND TO HAVE IMMENSE POWER...
I HAVE HEARD THAT NAME.
YOU KNOW HIM?
WHO? KIN-SAN?
...AND THAT NAME IS RECORDED NOT ONLY IN GRIMOIRES, BUT ALSO MANY POEMS AND STORIES.
THAT BASTARD NEVER SAID A WORD...
HOW CARELESS OF ME... THAT THE ONE GOVERNING PUCK'S HOMELAND WOULD BE SUCH A HIGH ELF.
N-NO WAY... SAY IT AIN'T SO.
THAT LITTLE CHESTNUT'S KING COULDN'T BE...
WITH HIS POWERS AT HAND...
...IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE...
...FOR YOUR PARTNER...
FX: *SWAY

...FOR THE BRANDED GIRL...
...TO REGAIN HER MIND.

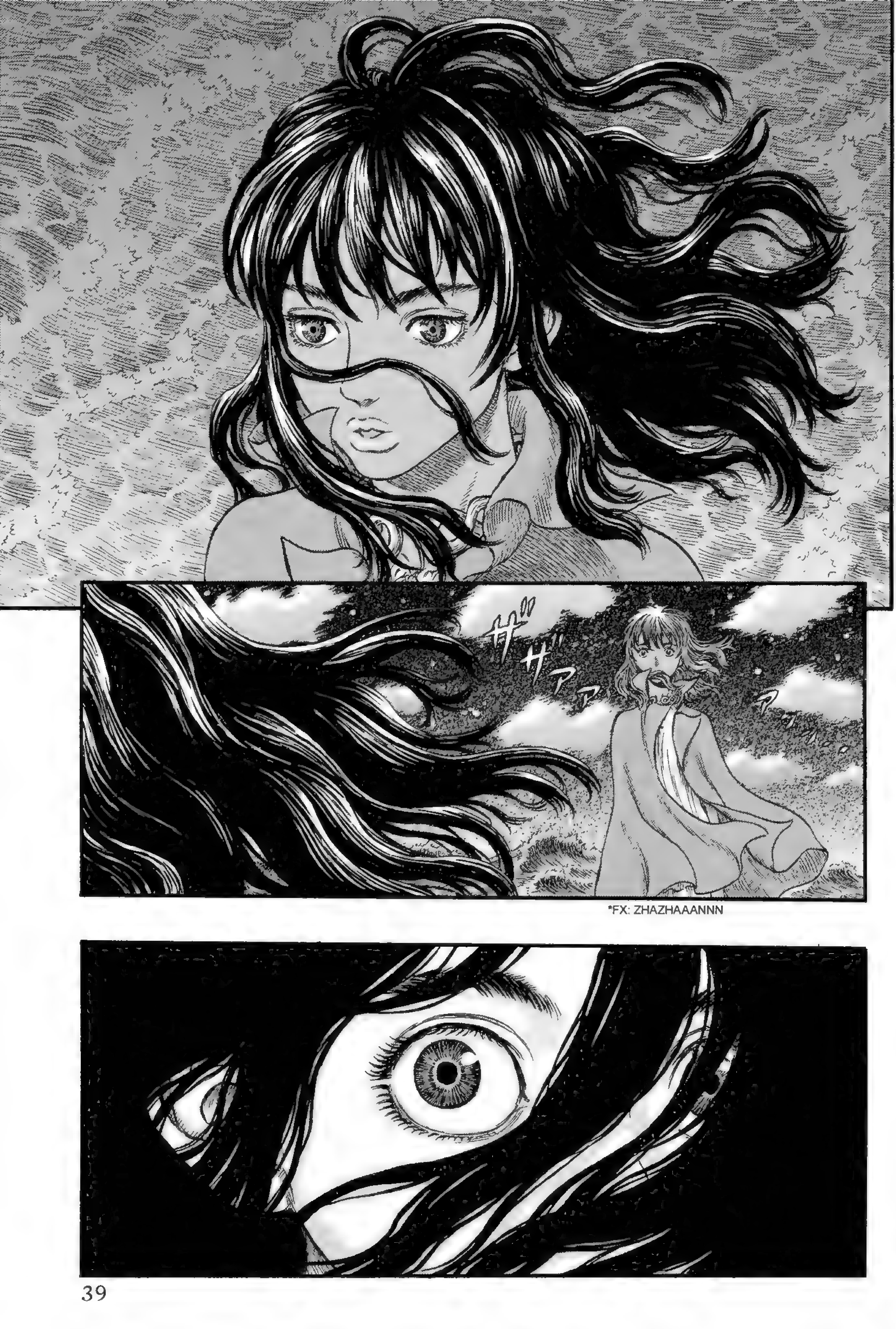
THE BOY IN THE MOONLIGHT
月下の少年

IS THAT TRUE?!
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
CASCA WILL...

...COME BACK...

FOR REAL...?
HAHA...
GUTS...
YOU'RE HAPPY NOW, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVETA SNATCH HIM AWAY.
BUT DON'T FORGET.
THAT'S ONLY AFTER YOU PASS THROUGH THE ORDEAL THAT'S TO BEFALL.
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING...

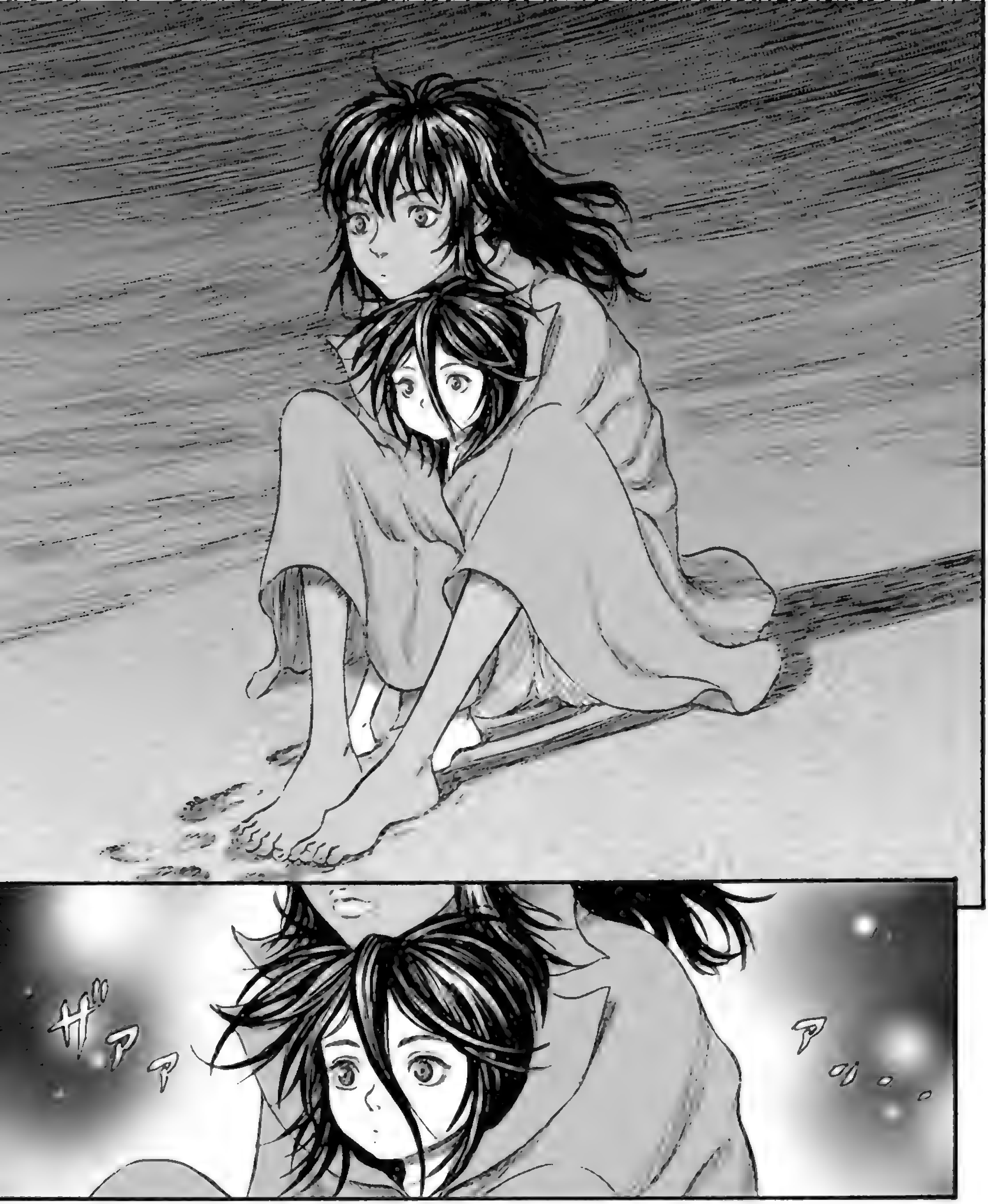
...THERE'S NO GUARANTEE...
...YOUR WISH WILL BE HER WISH.



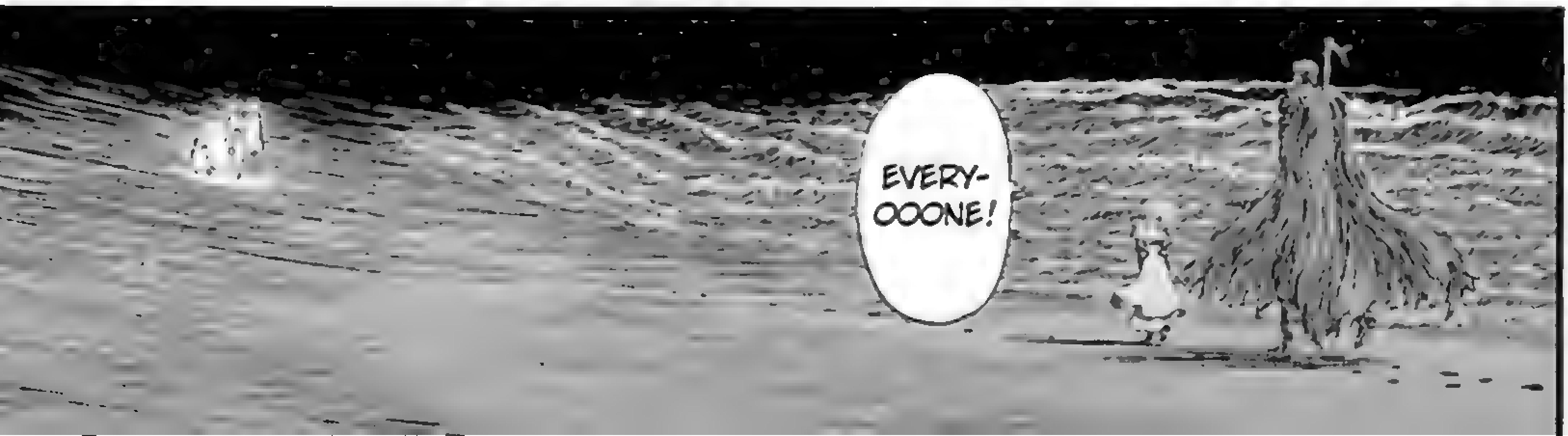
*FX: ZHAZHAAANNN

ドオオォオォオオォッ
DOOOSSSH

CAS-CAAAA!!
REALLY, YOU TOOK HER TO RELIEVE HERSELF AND SHE WALKED OFF? AS ALWAYS, NOT THE QUICKEST HORSE IN THE HERD, THERE, FARNY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
LADY FARNESE, AT LEAST WEAR THIS HOOD... YOU WILL CATCH COLD.
B-BUT...
MAYBE THIS'S A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL? BEIN' A WITCH AND HER BABYSITTER MAKES FOR A FULL PLATE...
THIS'S SO COMPLICATED...
WHERE HAVE GUTS AND THE OTHERS GONE AT A TIME LIKE...?
THERE!
!
CAS...
HUH?



*FX: ZHAAANN


EVERY-OOONE!

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WELL ...
THAT.
AAAAAU

WHO IS HE?
WE DON'T KNOW. LOST, PERHAPS?
ALL ALONE OUT HERE, AND NAKED TO BOOT... PERHAPS HE WAS ROBBED?
WHAT THE...?
WHAT IS THIS BOY?
I SENSE A MYSTERIOUS OD.

CLUTCH
ギュッ
....
ANYWAY, LET US RETURN TO THE CABIN. THE CHILD WILL FREEZE OUT HERE.
THERE IS GOOD NEWS YOU SHOULD ALL HEAR.
GOOD NEWS?
....
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
...NO.
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION...

ザアアッァァ
*ZHAAAANN
CASCA MIGHT BE ABLE TO...
FOR REAL?!
YES.
KING HANAFUBUKU IS SAID IN LEGEND TO BE A GREAT ELF KING.
I THINK THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT.
LEGEND...
YOU SMART-ALECK LITTLE CHESTNUT HEAD!
THAT KING WHERE YOU'RE FROM'S AMAZIN'!
WHY'DJA KEEP QUIET?! A SHOW-OFF LIKE YOU?!
...
THIS IS WONDERFUL NEWS, GUTS.
HE MUST NOTTA KNOWN...
ヒソ ヒソ
*WHISPER

WHUUU
WHIII
......
AHHH
AHM
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR WISH WILL BE HER WISH.

*FX: SHK SHK

*SHK

GUTS...?
YEAH...
?
パチ
*FX. SNAKT
....
STILL...
SHE'S ACTIN' LIKE SHE'S FARNY.
THEY CERTAINLY HAVE GROWN ATTACHED...
ギュッ
*SQUEEZE
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
WHAT A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE.
WEIRD KID.
LET'S CHECK AROUND LOCAL VILLAGES TOMORROW.
....

*FX: STARE
じー！
*FX: VWIP
フイ
...

......
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
HEY. H...
*SHUFF SHUFF
WH...
WHAT?

*FX: STARE

*FX: VWIP

*FX: TUG

DON'T JUST WATCH, DO SOMETHING...
MAYBE YOUR ARMOR FASCINATES HIM?
NO SWEAT, IT DON'T WEAR OUT ANYWAY.
HEY, C'MON ...
AUU!
DAAAAAU!
WH- WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE!
OWWW
ポロ。

*FX: FALL

ガシャッ
*GRAB

IT'S LIKE ...
Y'KNOW?
...
...A FAMILY.
SORTA...
GUUEE
HEY, SCHIERKE! DO SOMETHIN'! GET IN THERE! TAKE WHAT'S YOURS! LOVE'S A BATTLEFIELD!
*SHFF
AGAIN ...?!
BATTLE-FIELD?
*SNATCH
*STUFF
*FWOOM
....

*FX: NO NO NO NO

*FX: GRRRR

ギリギリギリ
*KRRRRN
スピュー…
*HZZZZ

THE LAST I CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIM WAS AT THE TOWER OF CONVICTION.
IT WAS JUST FOR AN INSTANT... BUT I'M SURE IT WAS HIM.
HE MUST STILL BE WANDERIN' AROUND...
...ALONE SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT...

ザザァァァ…
*ZHAZHAAAA
パチャ…
*PLASH

FAMILIARS
使い魔

BERSERK

ドドオ。オ。オ。。ウウ。。。。
*FX: D-DOOOSHHH
FOG...
GUTS!
!
WHAT IS IT?

ズゾゾ
*ZZZF
SOMETHING'S COMING...
...HIDDEN IN THE FOG.
THE USUAL WRAITHS, PERHAPS?
FUN! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SAW ANY ACTION!
THE TALISMANS ARE FLAWLESS. THAT SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE...

THIS OD IS CLOSER TO THE MONSTERS...
...WHO ATTACKED THE MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE THAN TO WRAITHS...
IT DOES FEEL LIKE...
... APOSTLES ?!
HERE THEY COME!!
*FX: RAKK
*FX: RAKK RAKK
*FX: KRASSSH

FWMM
EEEEK!
CHOMP
DWOHH!
WH-WHAT'S THIS *FRIGGIN'* HUGE LIZARD?! A *DRAGON...?!*
NO!! THIS IS A *CROCODILE...* AN ANIMAL FROM A FOREIGN LAND!!

*BISH
*KRAK
*KRAK
IT S-STOOD UP.
CROCO-DILES'RE CRAZY...
WHA ...?
IT'S GOT A DAMN HARPOON, TOO.
*LOOOM
*FX GLANCE
*SHFF
*BGASSH
DAHH!!

THNK
THNK
THNK
DDSSSHHH
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?

THIS WAS PRODUCED BY SOME KIND OF SPIRIT DWELLING IN THE ANIMAL.
A *MAGICAL LIFE-FORM.*
A KIND OF SO-CALLED *"FAMILIAR."*
BUT JUST *WHO* WOULD ...?
WE HAVE *TROUBLE !!*
!
A WHOLE SWARM OF THEM!!

IVA-LERA!
YOU GOTTT IT. ♪
ペタ
GOOD TO GO. ♡
TONIGHT IS A FULL MOON.
THE TIME WHEN THE POWER OF MAGIC IS MOST MANIFEST.
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS NOT A CHURCH OR HOLY GROUND, I CAN STILL AFFIX THE FORMATION OF THE FOUR KINGS.
PLEASE BUY ME A LITTLE TIME UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE SPELL.
FULL MOONS GET MY BLOOD GOIN' TOO!
FARNESE.
PLEASE SEE TO CASCA AND THE CHILD.
KEEP IT TOGETHER NOW, SERVANT!
Y... YES, MA'AM!
OOOO

*FX: PLAP

*FX: TUG TUG

*FX: HRRRN

OKAY.
GUTS...
IN YOUR SHAPE...
YOU'RE STILL...
JUST LEAVE IT TO THE OTHER TWO.

I'M *FINE.*
THIS'LL BE PERFECT FOR GETTING BACK INTO PRACTICE.
A FULL MOON IS ALSO WHEN A PERSON'S MIND IS MOST UNHINGED.
BE *EXTRA* CAUTIOUS.
SHAHHH
シャアアァ…

COULDN'T GET OUTSIDE IF YOU WANTED TO, THERE'S SO MANY.
SO I THINK IT'S *FEEDIN' TIME.*
URAH!
*SHMM
*BAP PAM
SWEET, THEY BURST OPEN!
AS GOOD AS THE BOMBS!
FULL MOON LIMITED-TIME MAGIC BLOWOUT.
*TMP

*WSSSSS
*FWOHH
H...
HE FLEW!!
LIKE LAUNDRY DANCIN' ON THE WIND!
*KRDUMP
*FX: TMP
IT DOES SEEM TO FUNCTION BETTER THAN USUAL.
!...

AH.
*ZHA
DARAHHH! MY STYLE OF SWORD-PLAY!!
*ZHA
INSTA-KILL?
*FX: HSHAHH
*FX: CHOMP
NUH-UH.
YOU ROLLED TOWARDS ITS MOUTH. IT'S GOT A LOW POSTURE TO BEGIN WITH. YOU MIGHT AS WELL'VE BEEN BAIT ROLLIN'.
B-BASTARD! IT READ MY MOVES...!! FEAR THE CROCODILE!
FIRST HIT IT WITH MAGIC BERRIES, THEN ATTACK AFTER IT FLINCHES!
TOO MANY DETAILS...
*HNNG
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FILL ITS STOMACH, THOUGH. YOU'RE JUST BITE-SIZE.
*SHAHHHH
DAHHH!
F-HINNEDEN!
*PLINK

*PAP
*SLASH
*CHNK
YEAH!
*GSSSH

HEY, DON'T STOP! **MOVE!**
*VYNN
*BRORRR
*DSSSH
CL...
CLOSE ONE!!
REPEAT NOT THE SAME MISTAKE.
HEHEH...
YOU'RE REALLY ACTIN' LIKE A **MASTER** TODAY.
RIGHT, SO LIKE THAT AND...
DAMN, THERE'S A LOT OF 'EM.
THEY'RE SLOWER 'N TROLLS, BUT BIGGER 'N' TOUGHER.
THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM...

*DOSSH
*GSSH
*DHZZN
WOW, S'LIKE HE'S TOTALLY RECOVERED.
BUT...
!
YEAH...
*FX: STRAIN
......

ALL RIGHT !!

SUPERNATURAL FOG

怪霧

BERSERK

*FX. WRRRRLS
*BANG
*BOPPH
RAHHH!
*ZHA
*WSS
*WOMM
*GINNNG

*CHOK
*VYNN
*SHUNK
*CHNK
*CHNK
I FEEL IT...

IT'S SNIFFING THE SCENT OF BLOOD.
IT'S AIMING FOR A CHANCE TO BE RELEASED.
DON'T YIELD YOUR MIND TO IT.
KEEP YOUR HEAD COOL.
DRAW OUT THE MINIMUM POWER OF THE ARMOR.
ONLY CONTROL THE PAIN ENOUGH TO MOVE FREELY.
THE ONE HOLDING THE REINS...
...IS ME.

HURRY, HURRYYY.
シャアアア。。
*HASSSS
YEEE! HERE, HERE, ONE'S HERE!
WHAT'RE THE MEN DOIN'?!
DO SOMETHIN', YOU! TURN IT INTO A BAG! CROCODILE HIDE!

HUH ...?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

MARKTO.
ATEGH.
GEPLAH.
GEDULAH.
LE.
ORAHM.

KEH!
ALWAYS GOTTA BE SO **DAMN** FLASHY!
BEAUTIFUL.
AT NIGHT, IT LOOKS LIKE AN AURORA.
EVERYONE.
YOU ARE ALL ALL RIGHT?
O' COURSE WE ARE!
FOR NOW, AT LEAST...
...THIS CABIN IS SECURE.
BUT THEY ARE NOT LIKE THE TROLLS, WHO HAVE **ONLY** ASTRAL BODIES.
THOUGH THEY ARE WARPED, THEIR BODIES ARE OF **FLESH**.
THE SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY OF THEIR ASTRAL BODIES WRAPPED...
?
...IN THE MEMBRANE CALLED **MATTER** IS QUITE DULLED.
THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE EFFICACY OF THE BULWARK AGAINST THEM.
IF THEY CONTINUE TO ADVANCE ON IT, EVENTUALLY...

THERE IS SURE TO BE A NEARBY SPELLCASTER CONTROLLING THE MOB.
IF YOU DEFEAT HIM...
IN OTHER WORDS, TAKE CARE OF THESE THINGS BEFORE THAT?!
THAT WILL TAKE TOO LONG!
THESE FAMILIARS DO NOT...
...POSSESS THE WILLPOWER TO ACT INDIVIDUALLY.
WHERE'S HE AT?!
I AM NOW SEARCHING.
PUCK SPARK!
JUST DO IT QUICK, MISS WITCH!

*FX: PAKT

*FX: SHOPT

*ZHFA

*SHOSSH
ビシャッ!!
*FX: BLACH!!
*HHH
*HHH
*HHH
*HHH

*HHH
*HHH
*SSSSSS
AHH ...
*HAHH HAHH
SO MANY OF 'EM.
NASSS-TY.

キシャアア
*KSHAHH
T...
TIME OUT!
WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT!
バタ
*FLAIL
バタ
*FLAIL
*CHNK
*CHNK
*SHONK
STILL NOTHING ...?!

FOLLOW THE FLOW OF OD...
!
THERE!
BEHIND SOME ROCKS ON THE SHORE...

ドサ
*THUD
ドサ
*THUD
ザ
*CHFF
?

!
*FX: CREEP CREEP
ワラ
ワラ
THE FAMILIARS...
W...
WE WON?
OKAY! IF WE'RE GONNA BEAT IT, NOW'S THE TIME!
NOT YET...
WAIT...!

THESE ARE KUSHAN?
FOG?

*FX: SSSSSS

*FX: FWOHH

*FX: ZZZZSH

ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ
*FX: ZHAAAAAAA
ドドドドド
*FX: DSSSSSSH
EVERYONE MOVE AWAY FROM THERE, NOW!!
!
WHAT GIVES?! ARE THERE FISH WALKIN' AROUND THIS TIME?!

SEA BEAST (MAKARA)

海獣（マカラ）

BERSERK

ビズウウウ
*BZHOOOOO
WHAT *IS* THAT...?
G-GIANT MONSTER!
I-I DO NOT KNOW...
BUT, AS WITH THE FAMILIARS...
...IT *TOO* IS A LIFE-FORM PRODUCED BY AN ETHEREAL BODY INHABITING SOME KIND OF ANIMAL.

*BIIIRRRN
*FX HSHAHHH
*FX: GSSSH
*FX: DZZZZH
*DZZZZH
AH CRAP, HERE IT COMES!!
TH-THERE'S SOME ANIMAL LIKE *THAT*?!
IT'S BIGGER 'N AN OGRE!
IF IT WERE JUST AN ETHEREAL BODY, PERHAPS...! BUT MY BULWARK CANNOT STOP AN OBJECT *THAT* HUGE! IF IT STORMS US, THE CABIN AND EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE FLATTENED!
KAIJU HANAGON.
WE CAN'T RUN, IT'S BLOCKIN' THE DIRECT PATH TO THE BEACH!
UUUU-GLY.

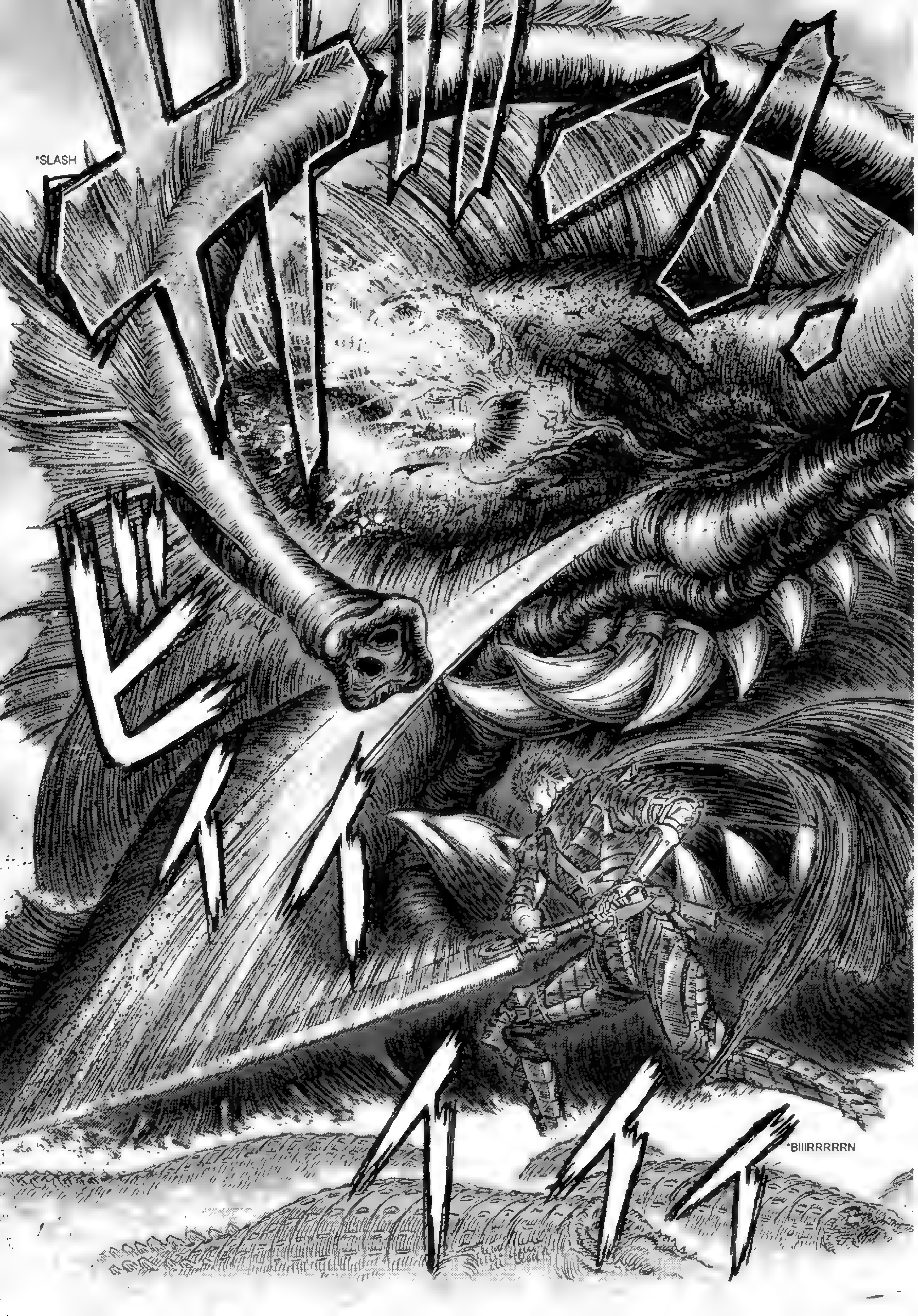
AIM FOR THE EYES...!
*FX: WSSS
*FX: TMP
*VASHHHH

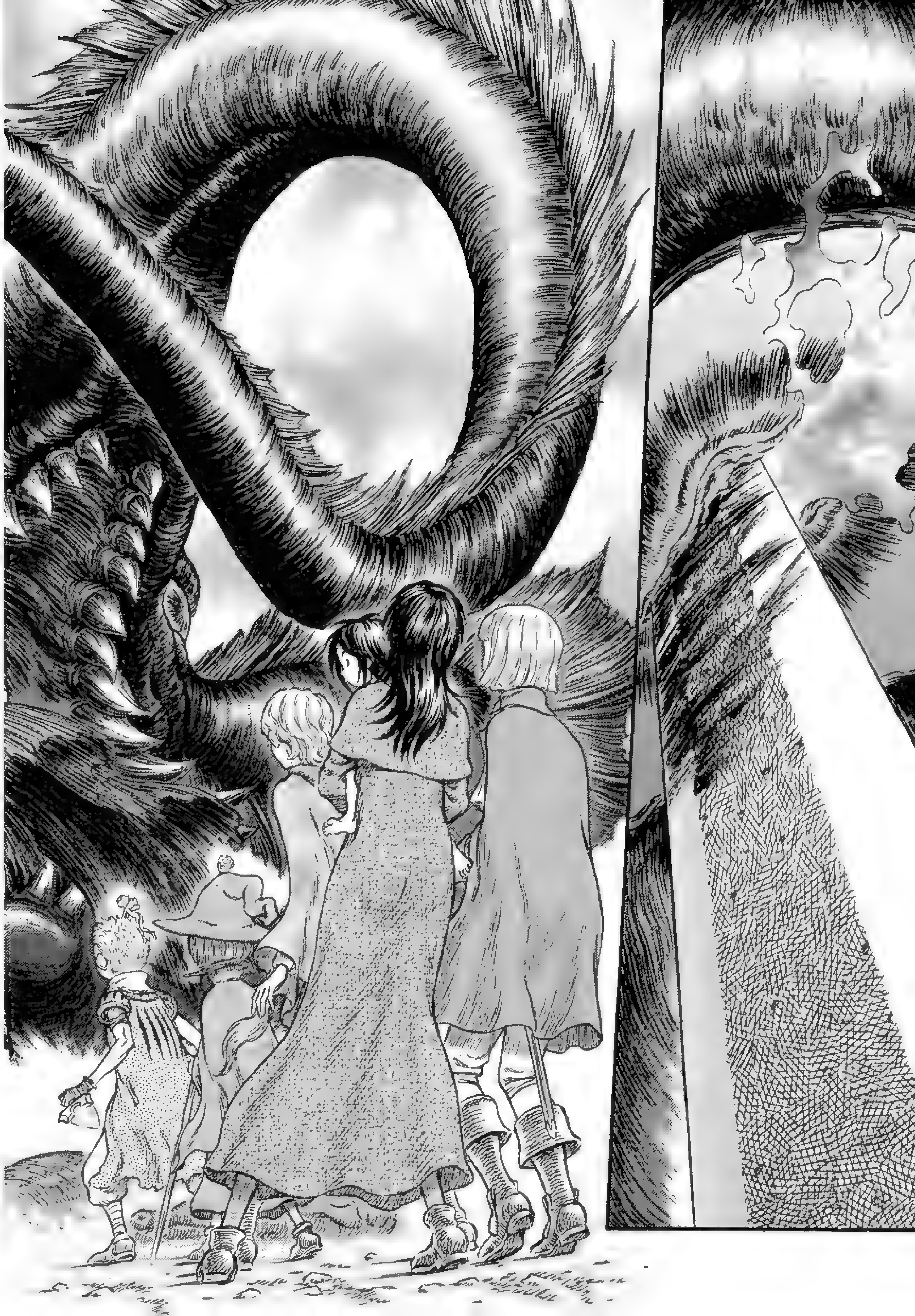
バギャア
*FX: GRASSSH
SERPICO !!
ドサァァ
*WHUMMP
THAT WAS CARELESS.
THANKS TO THE SPIRITS, MY LIFE WAS SPARED.
CLUMSY.
PARTY FOUL.
THE CASTER CONTROLLING IT IS...
!
...AT SEA.
NO USE... TOO FAR AWAY.
ビィィィィ
*BIIIRRRN

*GDOOOSH
*ZZZZAT
*ZZZZAT
*FX: WHOMM
*FX: CLATA CLATA
T...
TALK ABOUT **STRENGTH.**
SNOUT STRENGTH
IT DOESN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE BULWARK... IT'S TOO DENSE!
YOUR MAGIC AIN'T WORKIN'!
YOU BE QUIET, MONKEYS!
SPIRITUAL SPELLS ALONE WON'T WORK!
PHYSICAL PHENOMENA HAVE TO ACCOMPANY THE SPELL...!
*GCHAK

*ZHA
GUTS !!
YOU MUSTN'T! IF YOU CONTINUE FIGHTING...

*HHHH
*HHHH
*WHIP
*WHOMP


*SLASH
*BIIIRRRRRN



*CHOMP
*DOOSH
*BLACH
W-WOW...!
HE'S NOT GIVIN' AN INCH WITH THAT HUGE THING!
LOOKS LIKE GUTS'S BACK TO HIS OLD SELF!
THINK THIS'LL WORK OUT?

NO...
*PLAP
!
LOOK OU--

*FX: BATHUMP

*FX: STAGGER

*BPANNNG

UH... UH-OH...!
BIIRRN
DZZZH
CLATA
BASTARD!

*FX: WHAMMM

*FX HYNN

*FX: GLANCE

*FX PAK PAK

GEH! HERE IT COMES!
ズズズ
'EY ...!
I'LL MAKE SASHIMI OUTTA YOU!

*FX: DZZZH

ズズズ
*ZOMM
ゾゾ
*ZOMM
バサ
*FLAPA
ガチ
*CLAK
ガチ
*CLAK
ズズズ
*ZMZMZM
ガチン
*GCHIK

*ROHHHH
ロオオオ
*BZHOOOOO
ビュウウウウ
OH, SHIT! THERE IT IS!
*FX: SWING
*SWWAP
ビュアアア

*FLIP
ダッ
*SPRING
*SHWOK
ビエエエ
*BYARRR
*VSSSSH

ザッ
*ZHAA
ドドドオオン
*DOOOSH
DAMNNN THAT'S STRONG!
IT'S INHUMAN!
BUT...
...NOW HIS WOUNDS WILL AGAIN BE...

ドクン
*PULSE
*RORLLL
カッ
*TAK
I WILL...
...DRAW HIM BACK.

THE ROAR OF THE SEA

海鳴り

BERSERK

ズバシャアアア..
VSHAHHH
ゾロロロ..
*ROLRRR

*DOOOOSSSH
THE ROAR OF THE SEA...?
IT SWELLS BLACKLY...
...FROM THE EXPANSE OF THE DARK NIGHT.

IT DRAWS ME DOWN TO THE DEEP SEA BED.
A BOOMING LIKE A ROAR.

*SHWOCK

ドロ
*BLORP
ゴボァ
*GLOOSH
ズズヴヴンンロロ
*DZZZHHH
ズ
ズグ
*FX. SHRRROP
WAPF

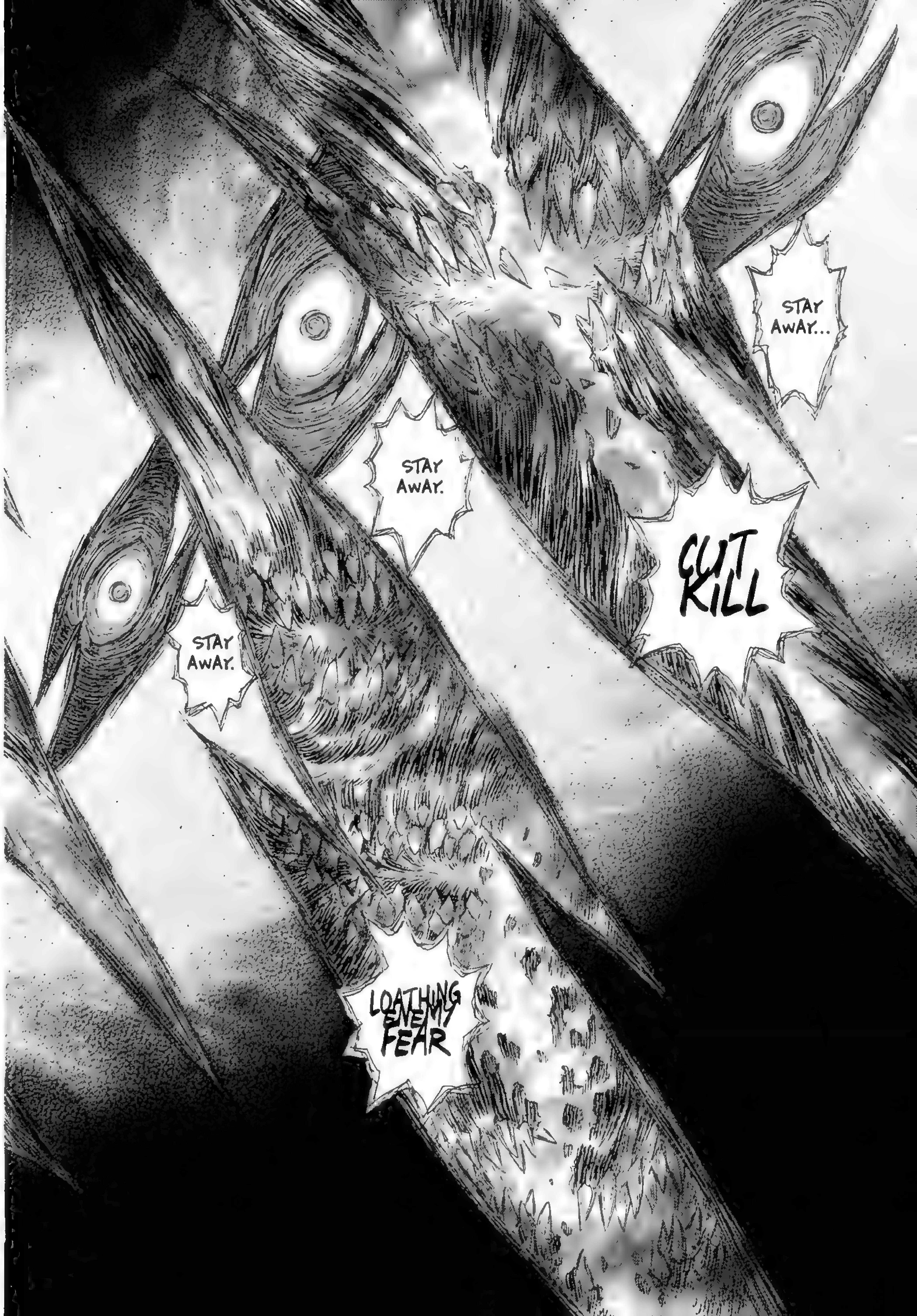
*FX: HSSSS HSSSS
*FX: RRRRR
*LEAP
*SHWOP
*VSSSSH

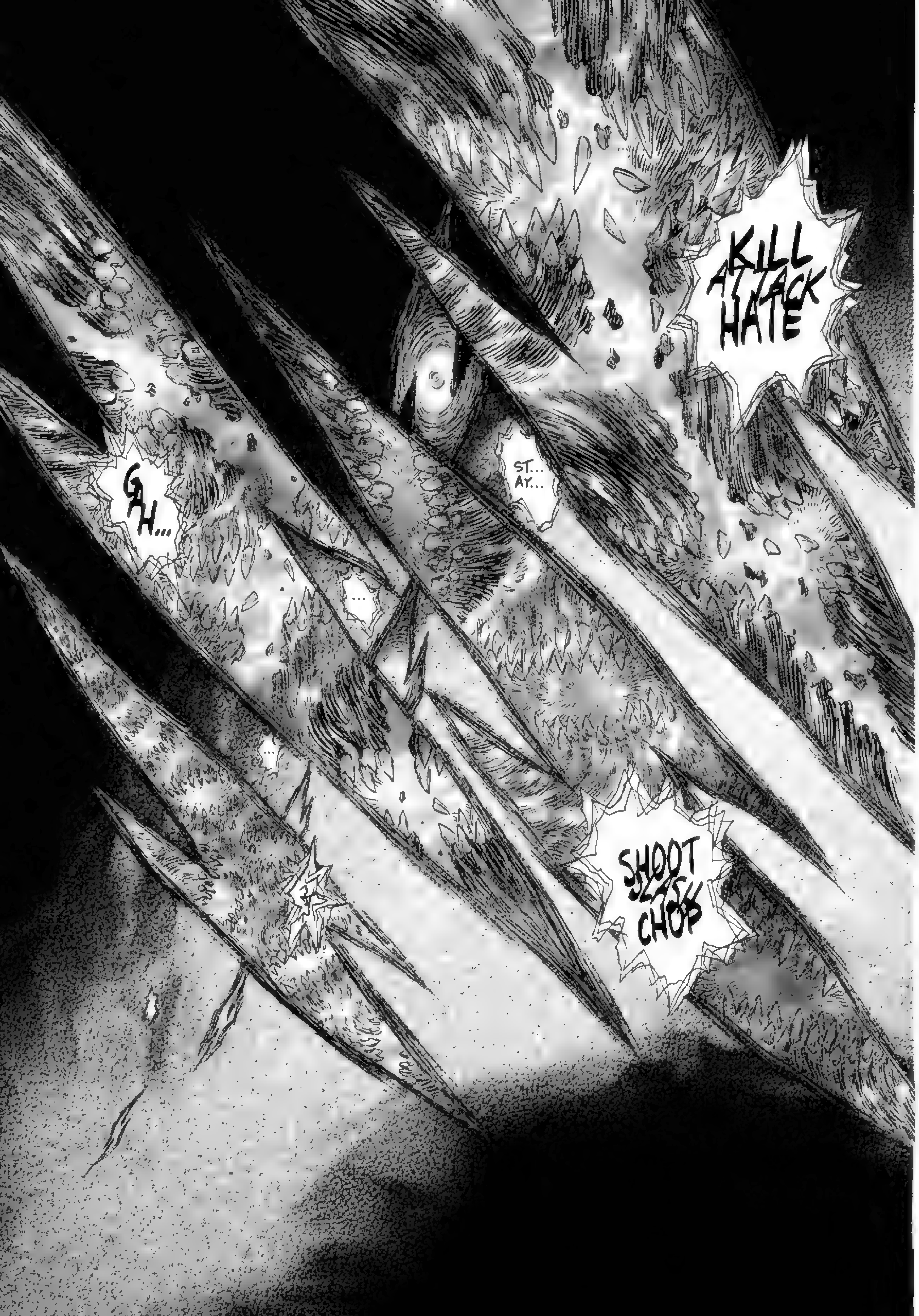
キシャアアア
*KSHAHHH

*AROOOO
ロオオ
*SHHHWAK

フシャアァァ
*HNSHAHHH
*STAB
*HAHHH

C-CRAZY...
AT THIS RATE, HE'S GONNA KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM.
THAT'S *ONE* SICK FIGHTIN' STYLE, THOUGH.
ANIMAL BUTCHER.
THEY'RE NOT RESISTIN', HE'S NOT HESITATIN'... I FEEL KINDA ILL.
I HOPE I'M WRONG, BUT...
...ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THOSE CALLED ***BERSERKERS...***
...INSPIRED FEAR NOT ONLY IN THEIR ENEMIES, BUT ALSO AMONG THEIR ALLIES. NOT FOR THEIR RELENTLESS FIGHTING STYLE ALONE...
...BUT BECAUSE...
...WHETHER FRIEND OR FOE...
...THEY WERE SAID TO SLAY ***EVERYTHING*** AROUND THEM.


STAY AWAY...
CUT KILL
STAY AWAY.
STAY AWAY.
LOATHING ENEMY FEAR


KILL ATTACK HATE
ST... AY...
GAH...
...
SHOOT SLASH CHOP

*RRR RR RRR
ル
ル…
ル…
ル

!
ガチャ
UH...
UH OH-- YOU CALLED IT...!!

*FX: GCHAK

HEY, AREN'T YOU DONE YET?!
SCHIERKE!
*LUNGE
EVERYONE GET BACK...!
SERPICO ...!
STOP!

SUPERHUMAN (JNANIN)

超者（ジャンアーニン）

BERSERK

STOP!

NOT YOUR ENEMIES.
DON'T BE AFRAID.

*SPRING.

ガロロロ
*GRARRRR
WHAT WAS *THAT?!* IS HE BACK TO NORMAL?!
I DON'T KNOW!!
STRAIN YOUR EYES.
STRAIN YOUR EYES.
LIGHT...

WATER'S SURFACE ...?
STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND.
GUTS ...!!

*SHENK
GUTS ...!!
SCHIERKE !!
SCHIERKE !
*HHHH
YOU WITH IT, MAN ?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

*FX: CHFF *FX: SSSSS

*FX: STAGGER

WHOK
SON OF A BITCH !!
IN THE END...
...IT WAS JUST LIKE HE SAID.

ガッ
TAK
BEING SO SET IN YOUR OWN WAYS...
...WILL MAKE YOU OLD BEFORE YOUR TIME.
RIGHT?
?
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

*PAT PAT *FWMP FWMP
Y-YEAH, RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S ABOUT...
UM...
BUT AS LONG AS WE GOT HER MAGIC, YOU CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL, RIGHT? GOOD ENOUGH THEN!
ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW SERIOUS THIS IS? ONE WRONG MOVE AND GUTS' LIFE WILL BE ENDANGERED...
ONE WRONG MOVE, 'N' YOU'LL BE CUT IN HALF.
HOW'S THAT DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER TIME?
INSENSITIVE TO DANGER
WE MIGHT'VE BEEN IN A TIGHT SPOT, BUT IT WAS THANKS TO THAT ARMOR THAT WE WEREN'T SMASHED BY THAT HUGE THING, RIGHT?
BADASS KILLER MOVES AND SUCH CAN BE RISKY. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO AWESOME!
I... I THINK SO TOO.
WE SHOULD BE GENUINELY HAPPY WITH WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED.
WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE DANGERS. THIS IS HOW WE HAVE SURVIVED THUS FAR.

THAT'S PRETTY PERSUASIVE COMIN' FROM ONE WHO HARDLY ACCOMPLISHES ANYTHIN'.
YOU THINK SO?
YOU GIRLS GOT A LOT IN COMMON.
THAT WAS NO COMPLIMENT.
TALK ABOUT AWKWARD, BEIN' CONSOLED BY A BUNCH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
*FX: BOP BOP BOP
ぽ ぽ ぽ
TAKE THAT BACK!
WELL...
...WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT, THIS TIME.
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...
...AND I WOULD'VE...
*HN HN HN
ふんふんふん
*SHIVER
ゾク

THAT MOMENT.
THE LIGHT THAT STOPPED ME...
WHAT WAS THAT...?!
ISIDRO, PUCK, HELP ME.
WHAT? FOOD GATHERING? WITH THIS MUCH MEAT WE'LL HAVE TONS OF YAKINIKU...
WE'RE LOOKING FOR MY EQUIPMENT THAT WENT FLYING.
BEFORE THAT, WE MUST SEE TO YOUR REOPENED WOUNDS...
......

AH HHHH
AA
WHAT'S UP?
CASCA ...?
HEYYY!! BRAAAT!!
!
WHERE'S THE BOY ...?!
OH YEAH!
IT'S NO USE, I SEE HIM NOWHERE.
I SHOULD FIND HIM QUICKLY BY HIS OD, BUT FOR SOME REASON...
SAME HERE.
I EVEN LOOKED UNDER THE CROCODILES.

*FX: ZHAAAA

OOOO
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M SURE HE WENT HOME.
COULDN'T BE...
IT CANNOT BE HELPED. ANYWAY, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE.
NOTHING SAYS WE HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF THESE.
AHHH
COME, CASCA.
DID THIS THING CHANGE SHAPE?
THE MAGICAL ELEMENT IS GONE, AND IT HAS REASSUMED ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

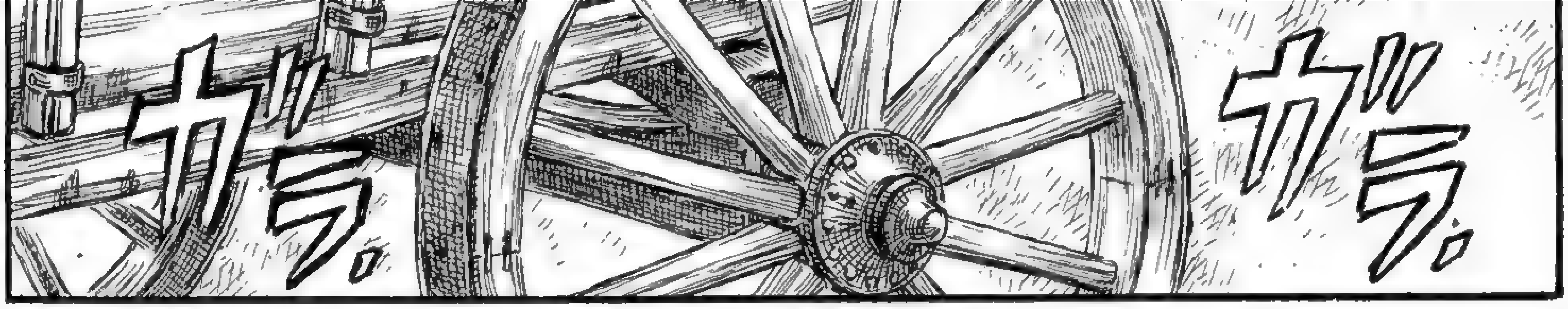
ザザアアッ

*GRRRN
REPORTING, MASTER DAIBA.
PISHACA MASTERY OF THE ENTIRE BAY SHORE IS COMPLETE.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
TELL HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LAND ARMY GENERAL, TO HURRY AND ADVANCE HIS FORCES.
AYE!
AN ENTIRE PENINSULA OF VILLAGES AND OUTLYING HABITATIONS FULLY SUBJUGATED WITHIN A SINGLE NIGHT...
THINGS WOULD NOT GO THIS SMOOTHLY, USING THE ARMY'S CRUDE METHODS.
NOT A SINGLE INHABITANT REMAINING... NOT EVEN A PIECE OF FLESH.
AND IN SECRET. NOT A SINGLE FIRE LIT.
THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANYONE IN THIS LAND WHO CAN MASSACRE THE PISHACA ENDOWED BY HIS MAJESTY...
BUT ONE THING WORRIES ME... THE THOUGHTS FROM ONE GROUP OF HARASHADA CEASED.

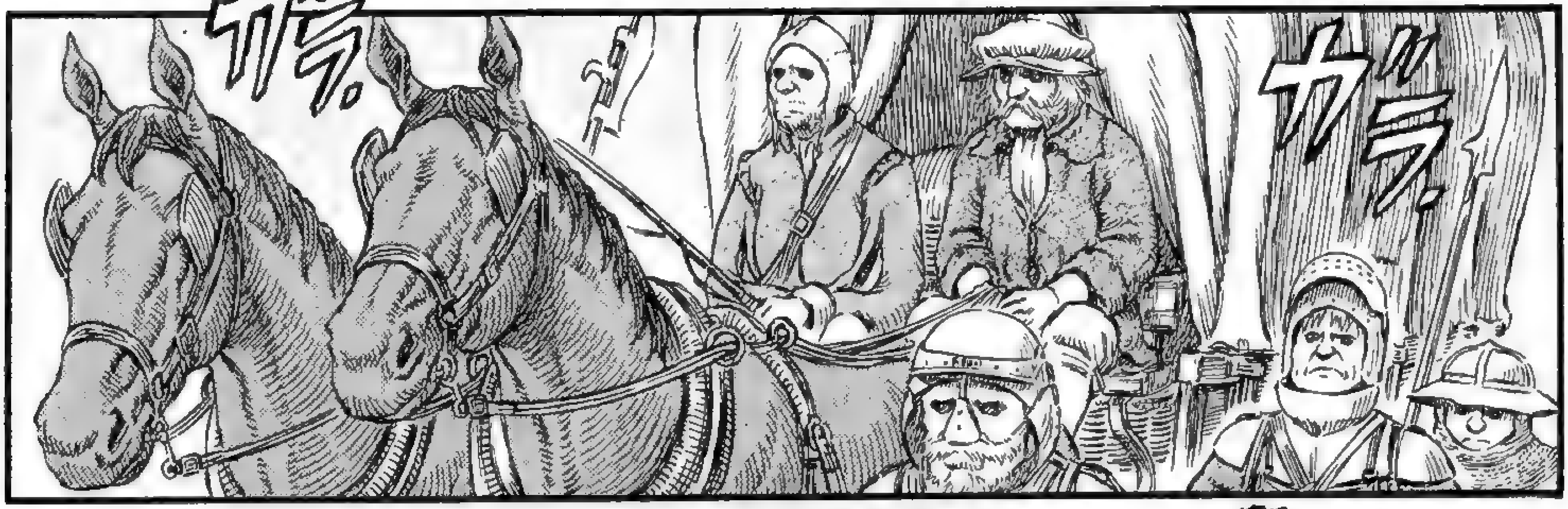
NO...
THERE CAN'T BE.

NAVY YARD
鎮守府

BERSERK

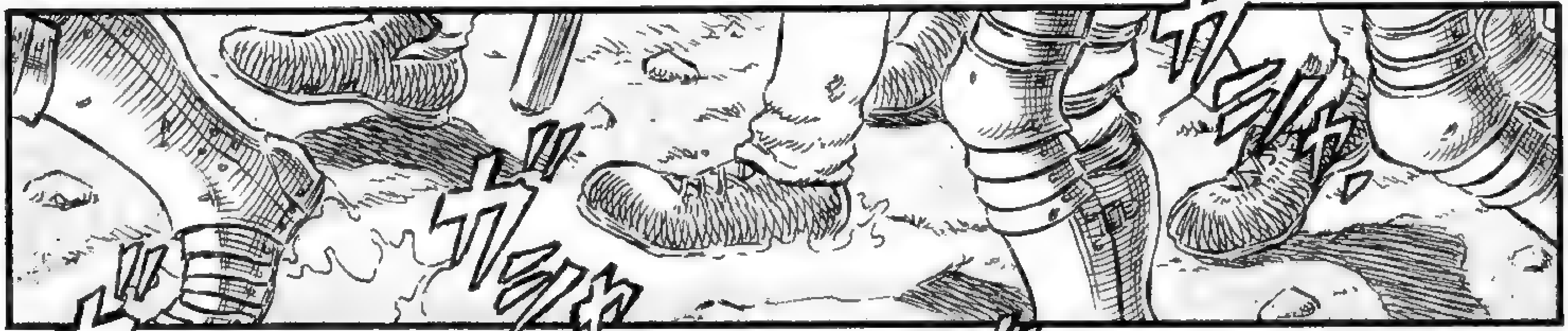


*FX: CLATA CLATA



FX: CLATA CLATA

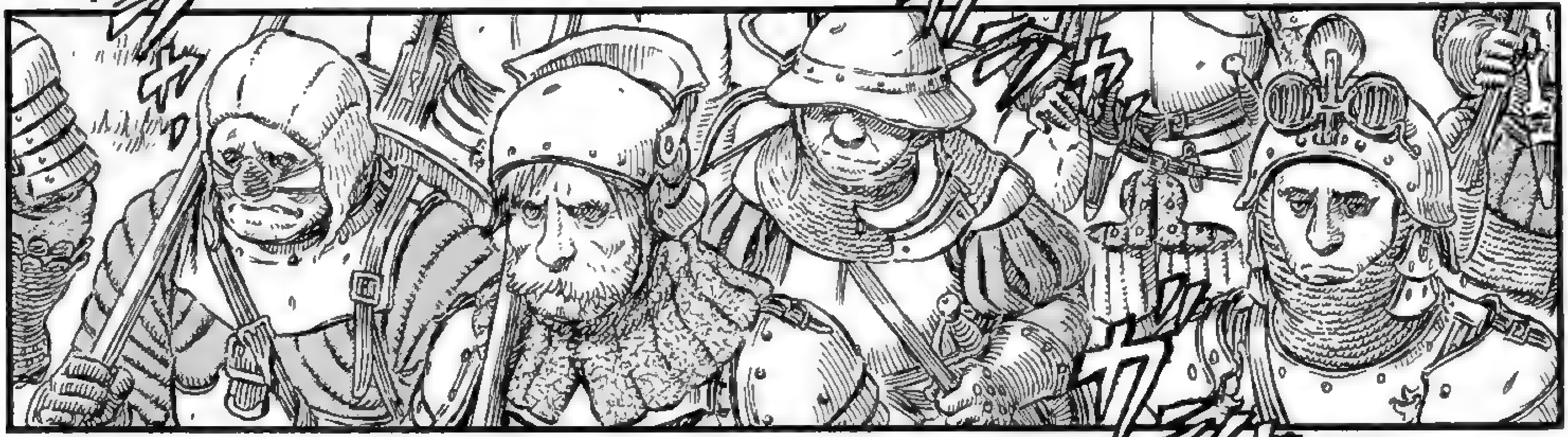
*SHOCH



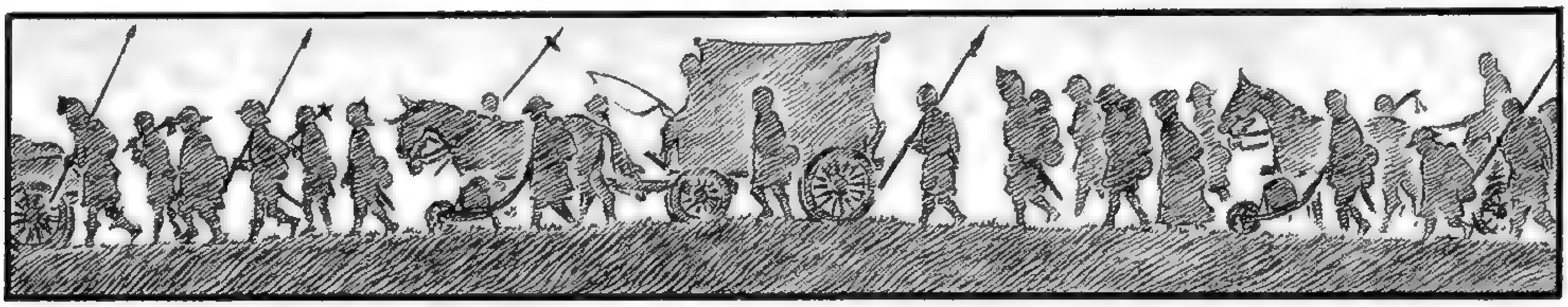
*SHOCH

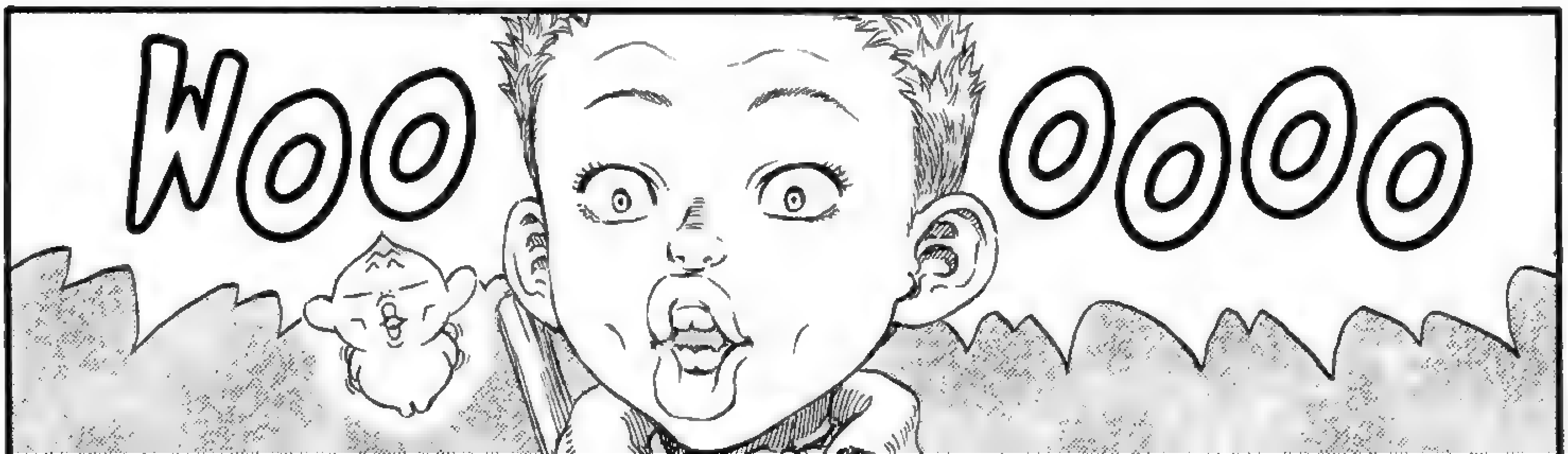
*SHOCH

*SHOCH



*SHOCH





WOWWW...
IT'S AN ARMY.
THERE'S A NUMBER OF 'EM.
IT'S ACTUALLY A MUSTER OF ARMIES FROM ALL THE HOLY SEE'S TERRITORIES.
THE GREAT KNIGHTS OF THE CHUDER EMPIRE AND THE KINGDOM OF BALDEN. FROM THE EAST, THE ROYAL KNIGHTS OF THE DUCHIES OF MORGAR AND WALLATORIA.
THE ARMY OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED RANDEL COMMONWEALTH. UNDER THE PANERIA ALLIANCE, THE ARMY OF LANA AND MERCENARY GROUPS OF FARIS, NISE, AND VRITANNIS.
AND VARIOUS OTHERS.
H-HOW D'YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE SERPICO WAS A HERALD OF ARMS.
HE HAS EVERY COAT OF ARMS OF NATIONAL AND ROYAL KNIGHT TROUPES MEMORIZED.
*BOOOM BOOOM
ドオオ
ドオオ
*RAHHHHHH
ワァァァァ
....
AHHH, THE NOISE! SPLITTIN' MY EAAARS!
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO-THING.
LIKE THUNDER.
IT'S JUST...SO BARBARIC...
BOYS SURE DO LOVE THIS STUFF.
YEAHHH, GETS THE BLOOD GOIN'!!
RIOT RAGE...

HEY, WHICH ARMY'S THE STRONGEST ?!
LET ME SEE...
*CLANK
ガチャン.
WITH MIDLAND'S FORCES PRACTICALLY DECIMATED, IT MUST BE CHUDER'S REGULAR ARMY.
THOUGH I CANNOT AGREE WITH THEIR SENSE OF STYLE.
NO OTHER NATION CAN PUT *THAT* NUMBER OF HEAVILY EQUIPPED KNIGHT BRIGADES INTO ACTIVE DUTY.
WHEN IT COMES TO EQUIPMENT, THE BALDEN ARMY IS ON PAR WITH CHUDER...
...BUT THAT KINGDOM IS CURRENTLY DEALING WITH A PEASANT INSURRECTION, SO IT MUST NOT BE ABLE TO SPARE MANY SOLDIERS FOR THIS CONFLICT.
RANDEL ONLY IN RECENT YEARS WON INDEPENDENCE FROM BALDEN. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A SETTLEMENT WHERE CRIMINALS WERE SENT TO RECLAIM IT FROM WETLANDS...
...SO IT IS OF AN AGGRESSIVE NATIONAL CHARACTER, AND IT COULD BE SAID TO WANT TO DEMONSTRATE A FIRM SENSE OF PRESENCE AMONGST THE NATIONS OF THE HOLY SEE VIA THIS CONFLICT.
WHILE MORGAR AND WALLATORIA ARE SMALL, THEY ARE LOCATED FURTHEST EAST OF THE HOLY SEE NATIONS...
...SO THEY ARE VETERANS WHO HAVE MANY TIMES CROSSED SWORDS WITH THE KUSHAN.
THOUGH THE COUNTRIES OF PANERIA ARE IN ALLIANCE, THEY WERE UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY A GROUP OF CITY-STATES THAT CONTINUED TO ENGAGE IN SKIRMISHES ALL AROUND THE DOMINION...
...SO UNLIKE NATIONS WITH DOMAINS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LANA THEY HAVE NO STANDING ARMIES, BUT HIRE MERCENARY BANDS FOR EACH CONFLICT.

....
YOU WEREN'T JUST SOME SERVANT ...
I WAS JUST A SERVANT. I WOULD NOT PRESUME TO DENY THAT AMONGST YOU ALL...
KNOWLEDGE KING.
YOU'RE INCREDIBLE.
WOOOWEE
THIS CLAMOROUS PREPARATION FOR BATTLE...
MY OLD HOME ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
A SCENT MY BODY KNOWS WELL.

AWE-SOME! IT'S, LIKE, SOLDIER LAND!
VRITANNIS FLOURISHED AS A LEADING TRADE CITY WITHIN THE HOLY SEE TERRITORY IN THE FIRST PLACE... BUT NOW THE ENTIRE CITY HAS BECOME A CANTEEN.
THE CROWD IS BOTHERING ME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THERE ARE SO MANY SMELLS MIXED TOGETHER. I FEEL ILL.
STINKS OF HUMAN.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BUMPKINS! IF YOU AIN'T SERIOUS, THEY'LL MESS WITH YOU!
MMP
SERIOUS CITY BOY
ヨタヨタ
*TOTTER
BUT WHEN THERE'S THIS MANY PEOPLE SWARMIN'...
...
にゅっ
*TUG
WHY'S THAT SEEM FAMILIAR?
AHAHA, THIS'S FUN!
STEALTH MODE.
?

HARK, BRETHREN GATHERED FOR THE HOLY WAR!!
IF YOU'VE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR SKILLS, COME RIDE WITH US!!
TATATATATATATA
WE ARE THE ***BAND OF THE DAWN FANG!!*** AS YOU KNOW, GENTLEMEN, OUR DEEDS OF ARMS INCLUDE GOING UNBEATEN IN THE RANDEL WAR OF INDEPENDENCE...
...AS WELL AS ***DEFEATING*** A BALDEN HEAVY KNIGHT BRIGADE!!
WHO'RE ***THOSE*** FLASHY GUYS?
STREET PERFORMERS?
HE'S A RECRUITMENT BARKER.
THAT'S HOW MERCENARY BANDS ENLIST TROOPS.
THE GUY ON THE STAND'S THE LEADER.

THE LEADER DOES THIS *HIMSELF* ?
TO CHOOSE A MERCENARY BAND, YOU LOOK AT THE LEADER FIRST.
DOES HE LOOK DEPENDABLE?
DOES HE LOOK WEALTHY ?
AND MOST IMPORTANT IS WHETHER HE GETS ON WELL WITH THE SOLDIERS.
THAT ONE LOOKS TOO HIGH AND MIGHTY.
MERCENARIES AREN'T PATRIOTS OR CHAMPIONS OF SOME GREAT CAUSE. IT'S ALL ABOUT EARNING ENOUGH TO EAT.
STRENGTH IS THE RULE FOR A MERCENARY BAND, BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA SEE IF THE BOSS IS ON YOUR SIDE OR THE EMPLOYER'S.
INDEED... TO MERCENARIES, WAR IS JUST BUSINESS. IT IS USUALLY THE CASE THAT THEY ARE DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES BY WAR AND, TOO DESTITUTE TO SUBSIST, FIGHT BECAUSE THEY MUST.
SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT A COMMANDER WHO VALUES HIS MEN, EVEN ABOVE VICTORY, IS MORE WELCOME THAN A GREAT ONE WHO WINS AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES.
YOUR LIFE'S ON THE LINE EITHER WAY.
THE REAL QUESTION'S WHETHER YOU WANNA RISK IT FOR YOUR COMRADES OR BE JUST ANOTHER *PAWN.*

SO THEY SHOULD BE STRONG, WITH A CHARISMATIC LEADER EVERYONE LIKES.
FEH!
WHAP
IF YOU'RE A MAN, YOU GET AHEAD BY YOUR OWN SKILLS!
OH, I RECALL ONE WITH CHARISMA.
SIR GRIFFITH.
THE MERCENARIES HE LED WERE THE BAND OF THE HAWK.
IN THE HUNDRED-YEAR WAR BETWEEN MIDLAND AND CHUDER, HE NEVER LOST TO HIS CHUDER OPPONENTS.
HE WAS THE LEGENDARY MERCENARY LEADER WHO, AFTER THE BAND OF THE HAWK BECAME PART OF MIDLAND'S REGULAR ARMY, BROUGHT ABOUT THE SURRENDER OF THE IMPREGNABLE STRONGHOLD OF DOLDREY, DEFEATED THE HOLY PURPLE RHINO KNIGHTS, SAID TO BE THE MIGHTIEST IN CHUDER'S ARMY, AND FINALLY LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR.
GRI...
THAT NAME... I'VE HEARD GUTS SAY IT AT SOME POINT...
....

YEAH, THAT GRIFFITH DUDE WAS INCREDIBLE, BUT...
ANY RATE, IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY...
...IT WAS THANKS TO HEARIN' THAT THAT I DECIDED TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD.
I KNOW THAT ONE!! EVERY MAN DOES!!
YEAHHH!!
*SKRICH
ポリ
THE BAND OF THE HAWK'S RAIDERS CAPTAIN... THAT GUY WAS WICKED STRONG!!
I MEAN, HE CUT DOWN SOMETHIN' LIKE A HUNDRED... NO, A THOUSAND OPPONENTS!!
...
THEY SAY HE TOOK DOWN THOSE PRIMO RHINO GUYS SINGLE-HANDED!!
OHO!
THAT'S EXAGGERATED.

BUT, IRONICALLY, IT CAN ALSO BE SAID THAT THE DISCORD BETWEEN SIR GRIFFITH AND THE KING WAS THE CAUSE OF THE FATE MIDLAND FACES TODAY.
A BIG RISE, AND A BIG FALL!! IT'S SO COOL!!
OH, HEY, DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE A MERCENARY, GUTS?
WHAT GROUP WERE YOU WITH?
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE FORGOTTEN.
RUMOR HAS IT, THE HAWKS WERE LATER DESTROYED BY THE KING'S SCHEMING...
...BUT SOME ALSO SAY THAT THEY REMAIN IN MIDLAND AND ARE FIGHTING THE KUSHAN.
I DO NOT KNOW THE REAL TRUTH.
AS A WARRIOR OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK...
...I CALL UPON THE BLACK SWORDSMAN IN SINGLE COMBAT.
....

HOLD IT, GIRL.
!
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THESE GUYS?
YOU MEAN ME?
WHAT KIND OF OUTFIT IS THAT?
TEACHER.
PLUCKED.
OH, RIGHT. I WAS SO USED TO IT, I FORGOT.
AH, MANNN.
THIS IS THE HOLY SEE'S INNER CITADEL!
RIGHT NOW IT'S THE SAME AS HOLY GROUND!
WE WON'T LET YOU ENTER IN SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS GETUP!
OH, REALLY!
ムカ
THE OUTFIT IS FOR PERFORMANCE, GOOD OFFICIAL...
A PERFORMER?
IT'S NOT ALLOWED, EVEN FOR PERFORMANCE.
YA PETTY OFFICIAL!
Z

*FX: PEEVE

*FX: LIFT

EE-HEE-HEE
WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY'RE STIFF AS BOARDS.
NOW...
...LET US PROCEED.
...
スタ。スタ。
*FX: STRIDE STRIDE
I-I HEAR YA, BUT WASN'T THAT A BAD IDEA...?
WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
IT IS ALL RIGHT.
I CAN MANIPULATE THE OD OF PEOPLE TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION.
じろ。じろ。
*FX: STARE
?
じろ。じろ。じろ。
しゅっ
THIS WAY!
*FX: SWIP
*FX: STARE
THERE!
HO HO HO HO
NICE.
みゅいいいん
*FX: WEERRRRN

*STARRRRE
HO HO HO HO HO HO
QUIVER IN FEAR!
A WITCH EXPOSED.
YES, THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
EVIL-EYE-RA.
OOG.
C'MERE!!
HEY, QUIT INTERFERIN'.
WHAT IS IT?!
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT! WE GOTTA BUY YOU SOME NORMAL CLOTHES SOMEWHERE...
MY, MY, JEALOUS? TALK ABOUT UNSIGHTLY. ♥
AYOOP! AYOOP!
SURELY YOU JEST!
THIS *IS* NORMAL FOR ME.
YOU'LL BE BURNED AT THE STAKE!
I WON'T TREAD SO CLUMSILY. I'M *NOT* YOU.
WHY'RE YOU SO *STUBBORN*?!
!
*FX: WHAP
*PLAP
AHH!
*FX: CLATA CLATA CLATA

....
CLAT
CLAT
CLAT
CLAT
SHWARE!
UH... HEY.
MY BAD...
HAVE YOU NO DELICACY?
YOU'RE CRUEL.
WH- WHAT?! OVER A WORN-OUT HAT?!
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ADVICE...
HERE COMES THE MAGIC ATTACK!
ドキ
ドキ
*FX: BATHUMP BATHUMP
EMER-GEN-CY!
I'M DEAD!
*FLINCH

!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
タタタタ…
IDIOT!! IF YOU WANDER 'ROUND THE CITY LIKE THAT...
DAMMIT!
WHAT'S SHE THINKIN'?!
THAT... WITCH!
HEY, DROPPY! YOU SUCK!
?
IT'S DROPEY, EVIL AIRHEAD.
THAT HAT AND HER CLOTHES WERE HANDMADE BY FLORA!!
EVERYTHING ELSE BURNED IN THE FIRE!!
HANDMADE...
THEY'RE MEMENTOS, Y'HEAR?!
MAKIN' A GIRL CRY... YOU ARE A MONKEY!
SCHIERKE, WAAAIT!!
...
*FX: ERRRGH
ISIDRO...
......
AWW, DON'T FEEL DOWN. HERE, HAVE THIS.

WE'LL GO LOOK FOR LODGING.
WE'VE GOT THOUGHT TRANSFERRENCE, AND I DON'T THINK ANYONE HERE COULD DO ANYTHING TO A GENUINE WITCH...
...BUT WE CAN'T HAVE DINNER GETTING COLD.
...
GO BRING HER BACK.
I'LL GO WITH YA TOO.
WAIT, SCHIERKE!!
WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?
WHERE THERE ARE NO PEOPLE.
*AHAHAHAH
*DAHAHAH
BLESS ME, SHE'S CUTE!
*FX: STRIDE STRIDE
I SAY, HEYYY!
LOOK AT THAT.
*WHISPER
I KINDA DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE. PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, SO MUCH OD.
EVERYTHING AROUND US IS STONE. IT'S SO SUFFOCATIN'. AHHH, I MISS THE FOREST.

WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?

CITY OF HUMANS

ひと　まち
人間の都市

BERSERK

HEY, WHAT *ARE* YOU?
....
SCHIERKE?!

*FX: DASH

*GREEE
ギィィ…
*GREE
ギィ…
*AGHWW
アー!
*EGHHH
エー!
*VZZZZ
ヴゥウゥン…

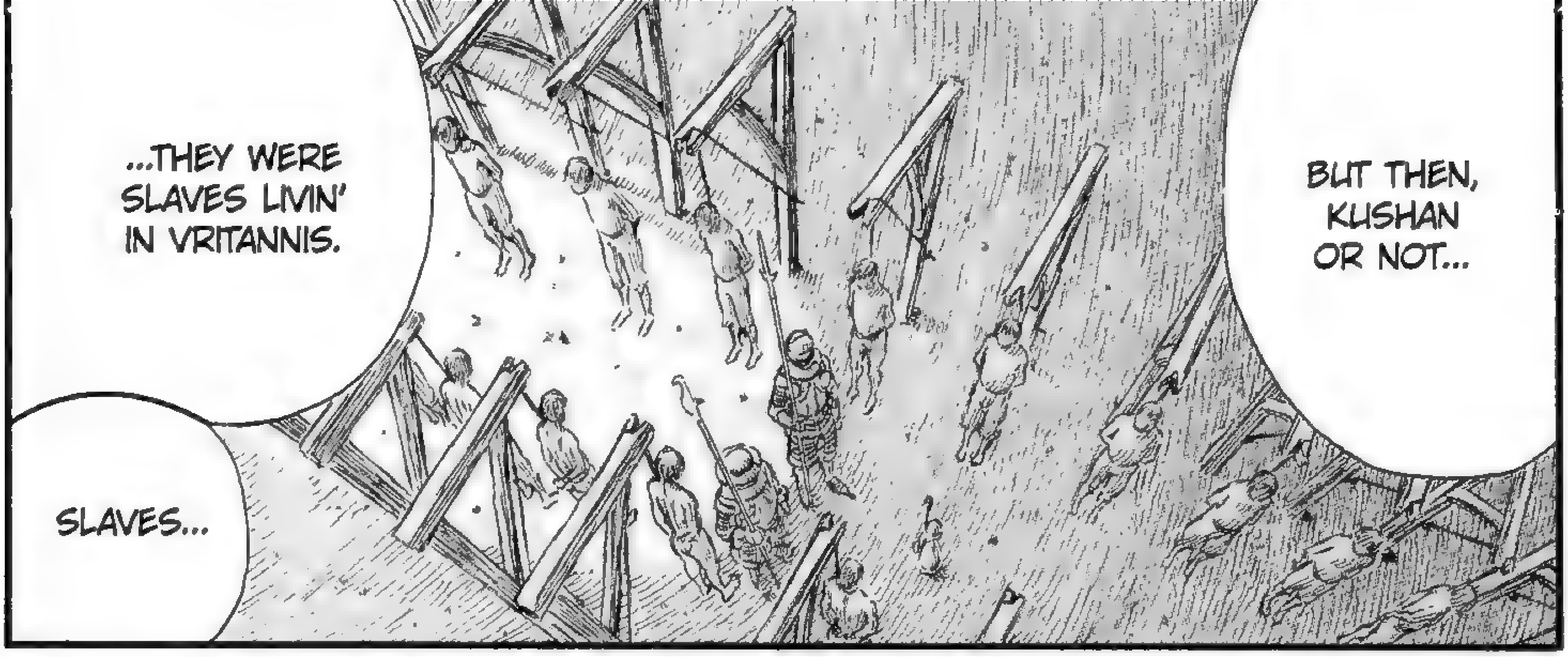
OH, YUCK, WHAT IS ALL THIS ...?!
...
!
THAT MUST BE HIS BODY.
SCHIERKE?
MOVE AWAY FOR A MOMENT, IVALERA.
ギュ

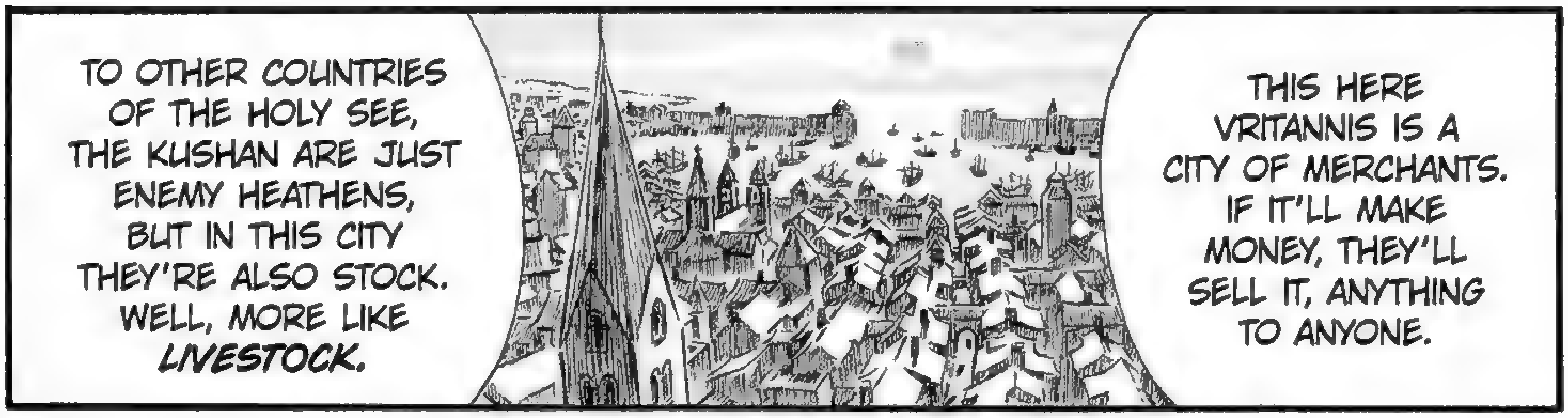
*FX: CLUTCH

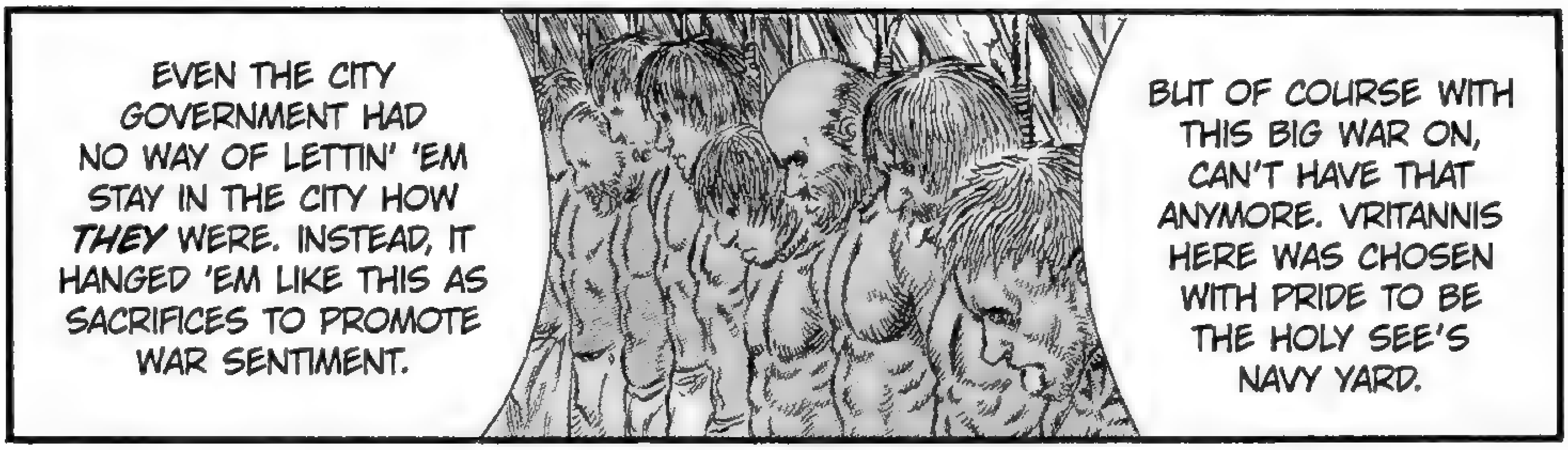
SCHIERKE!
*SPRING
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
...!!
...AIN.
PAIN...
YEEP!
PAIN...

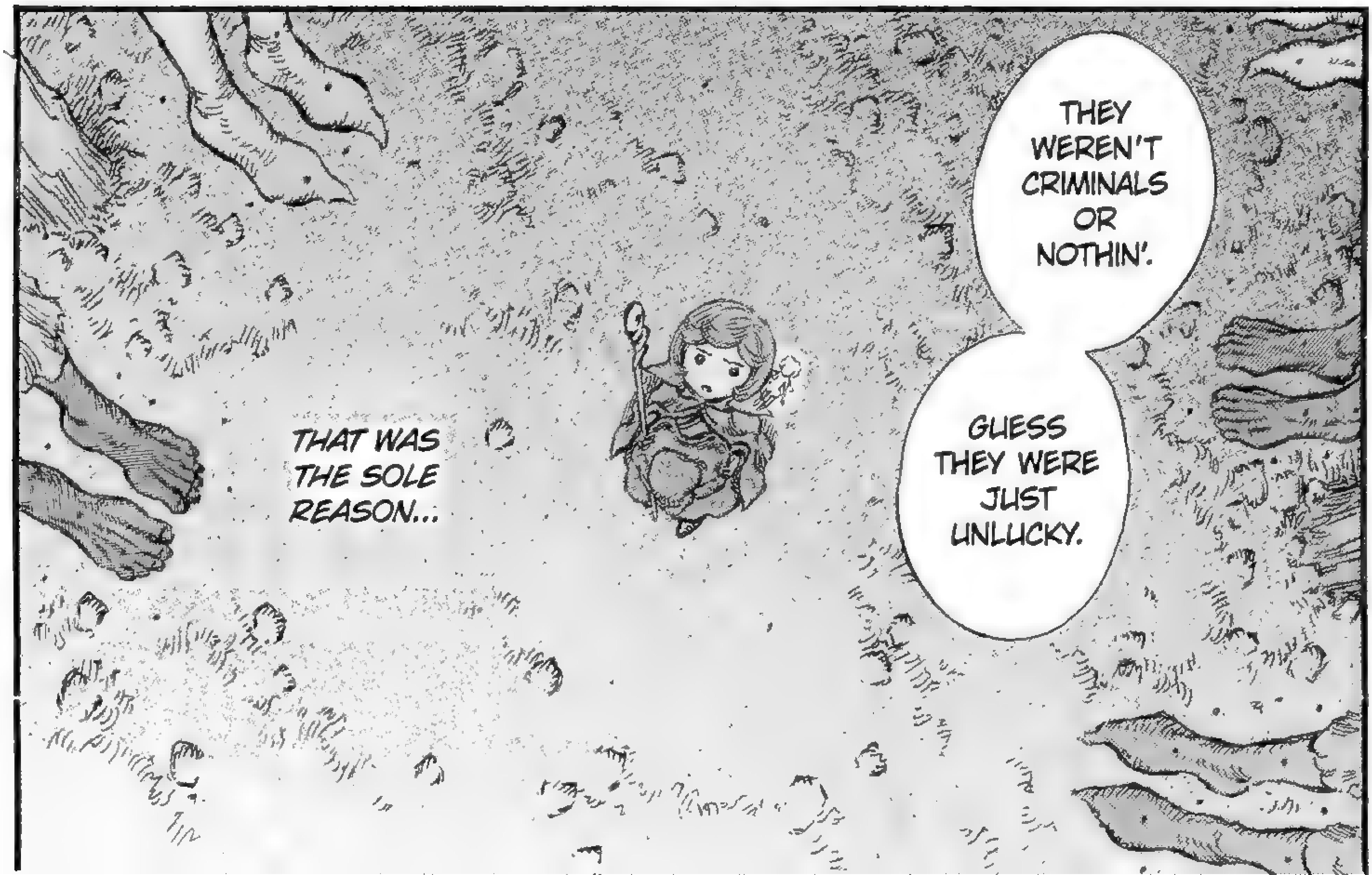
LET ME...
LET ME...
...DOWN...
SET ME...
...FREE.
HN?
WHO'RE YOU?

FOR WHAT OFFENSE WERE THESE PEOPLE HANGED?
THIS AIN'T A GOOD PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO WANDER AROUND.
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT, GIRL? YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A WITCH?
YES, I AM.
AND DON'TCHA MESS WITH HER.
AH.
YES, SO YOU ARE.
THESE GUYS'RE KUSHAN.


BUT THEN, KUSHAN OR NOT...
...THEY WERE SLAVES LIVIN' IN VRITANNIS.
SLAVES...


THIS HERE VRITANNIS IS A CITY OF MERCHANTS. IF IT'LL MAKE MONEY, THEY'LL SELL IT, ANYTHING TO ANYONE.
TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HOLY SEE, THE KUSHAN ARE JUST ENEMY HEATHENS, BUT IN THIS CITY THEY'RE ALSO STOCK. WELL, MORE LIKE *LIVESTOCK.*


BUT OF COURSE WITH THIS BIG WAR ON, CAN'T HAVE THAT ANYMORE. VRITANNIS HERE WAS CHOSEN WITH PRIDE TO BE THE HOLY SEE'S NAVY YARD.
EVEN THE CITY GOVERNMENT HAD NO WAY OF LETTIN' 'EM STAY IN THE CITY HOW *THEY* WERE. INSTEAD, IT HANGED 'EM LIKE THIS AS SACRIFICES TO PROMOTE WAR SENTIMENT.


THEY WEREN'T CRIMINALS OR NOTHIN'.
GUESS THEY WERE JUST UNLUCKY.
THAT WAS THE SOLE REASON...

PEOPLE WILL TAKE EACH...
...OTHERS' LIVES THAT UNJUSTLY?
TO PILLORY CORPSES IS A DESECRATION OF THE DEAD.
IT IS IMPERMISSIBLE.
I WILL TAKE THEM DOWN IMMEDIATELY AND CREMATE THEM.
YOU TWO WILL ASSIST ME.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

...
WOWWW.

ANY LUCK?
NOPE. YOU?
SAME HERE.
THE BUILDINGS KEEP ME FROM SEARCHIN' FROM THE SKY.
AND I CAN'T PICK OUT SCHIERKE'S PRESENCE FROM ALL THESE PEOPLE.
I FIGURED SHE'D STICK OUT, WITH HOW SHE LOOKS.
THIS MANY PEOPLE, AND NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE.
I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR SCHIERKE'S TELEPATHY? SHE DON'T RESPOND WHEN *WE* CALL HER, ANYWAY.
ARGGH, WHERE'S THAT WITCH WANDERIN' AROUND AT?!

DID YOU...
...SAY SOMETHING...
...ABOUT A WITCH, JUST NOW?
I BEG YOUR PARDON...
...BUT MIGHT I HEAR SOME MORE ABOUT THAT?

*FX: CLOP CLOP

HEY, SCHIERKE.
LET'S GO BACK. THE SUN'S GONNA SET.
HEY, I SAID...

WHOAAA, WHAT'S THIS?
SO BIIIG.
FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA SQUASH US.
IT'S SCARYYY ...
AND THERE'S SO MANY.
I BET A WHOLE FOREST OF TREES WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOR THESE...
WHY'D THEY MAKE A THING THIS BIG...?
WHAT DO THEY NEED SOMETHING THIS BIG TO CARRY?
WHERE CAN'T THEY REACH WITHOUT THIS?

WHAT'S THAT MULTITUDE GOING TO DO?
HAVE THAT MANY PEOPLE AND OBJECTS BEEN GATHERED JUST TO SHED BLOOD?
THIS IS...
...THE WORLD TO WHICH THEY BELONG.
......
ギュ
*CLUTCH
MISTRESS, IN THIS PLACE THE VOICES OF THE SPIRITS ARE VERY FEEBLE...
DROWNED OUT BY THE VOICES OF PEOPLE...

THE KITE AND THE OWL OF THE WHARF

桟橋のトンビとフクロウ

BERSERK

TELL ME.
WHERE EXACTLY IS THAT WITCH?
....
WHO'RE *YOU*...?
YOU CAME OUTTA NOWHERE ...

IF YOU WANNA ASK SOME-ONE SOME-THIN'...
...DON'T DO IT FROM UP ON YOUR HIGH HORSE!
PARDON ME...
*GCHAK
ガチャ
....
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE.
IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING REGARDING THAT WITCH, WOULD YOU TELL ME?
WHY'S SOMEONE LIKE YOU LOOKIN' FOR A WITCH?
!
AHAHHH! I SEE HOW IT IS. YOU'RE GONNA CATCH THE WITCH AND HAND HER OVER TO THE OFFICIALS, AREN'TCHA?!
THEN YOU CAN CLIMB THE LADDER!
LADDER?

DON'T PLAY DUMB!
UM...
JUST LOOK AT YOU! I BET YOU'RE SOME ARISTOCRATIC SQUIRELY CREAM PUFF!
I BET YOU FIGURE IF YOU PULL THIS ONE THING OFF, YOU'LL GET PROMOTED TO KNIGHT!
THAT'S PETTY!
*PTOO!
ぺっ
*SHMP
した
OH-NO-YOU-DON'T!
AH!
ばっ
*FX: LEAP
WAIT A MINUTE! LISTEN TO WHAT I--
STING!
ギューン
*FX: ZHOOOM
*FX: SWSSS
すかっ
WHOA!
*FX: RUN AWAY!
!
とんずらー
WHAT THE HECK ...?

S
HOW'D HE DODGE THAT?
I WAS IN STEALTH MODE.
NOT GOOD!!
WE GOTTA FIND THE WITCH BEFORE HE DOES!
OR IT'S THE STAKE...
...FOR REAL!!
THEN AGAIN, SHE'D JUST MAGIC UP A FLOOD!

SCHIERKE, I'M HUNGRY. LET'S GO BACK.

!
HERE COMES SOMEBODY.
WITCHES REALLY *DO* EXIST.
OUTSTANDING.

*FX: TOK TOK

*FX: KEEEERN

*FX: TOK

*FX: KEEEERN

YOU'RE A...
...WITCH, AREN'T YOU?

......
DO I...
...LOOK LIKE ONE?
YOU BET.
I MEAN, A POINTED HAT AND A WAND.
AND YOU'RE TALKING TO ANIMALS.
BESIDES...
...THERE'S *HER.*
*POINT
ぴっ
A GIRL WITH AN ELF IN TOW COULD ONLY BE A WITCH.
THIS GIRL...
YOU CAN *SEE* ME...

THERE'S ALSO ...
...WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER.
?
THOSE KUSHAN WHO HAD BEEN HANGED.
YOU SET THEM FREE, DIDN'T YOU?
THEY WERE PRETTY, LIKE FISH SWIMMING IN THE EVENING SKY.
YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE THAT?
IT WAS COOL. WATCHING YOU WRAP THOSE BIG GROWN-UPS AROUND...
...YOUR FINGER MADE ME FEEL MUCH BETTER.
WAS THAT *MAGIC*?
IT WAS NOT SO BIG A...
OH, BUT IT WAS BIG. ♡
IT WAS JUST SOMETHING AKIN TO SUGGESTION.

BUT DON'T WITCHES LIVE IN FORESTS OR ON MOUNTAINS?
WHY'RE YOU *HERE* OF ALL PLACES?
FWMP
I AM ON A JOURNEY.
ALONE? WELL, YOU HAVE HER, SO THE TWO OF YOU ALONE?
NO...
A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE...
...WE CAME TO THIS CITY.
....
HMMM...
IT SURE IS HARD...
...BEING DIFFERENT THAN OTHERS.

AND YOU...?
ARE YOU OF THIS PLACE?
UH-UH.
I GUESS A LOT'S...
...HAPPENED TO ME, TOO.
SEE, TO PUT IT ONE WAY...
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS AN UGLY DUCKLING!
OH! I KNOW THAT FAIRY TALE!
A DUCK?
?
THE UGLY DUCKLING WAS DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE, SO SHE WAS OSTRACIZED. YOU SEE, THE UGLY DUCKLING WAS A...
A SWAN!
SHE WAS A *KITE!*
EGH?
ONE DAY, A NASTY...
...MURDER OF CROWS ATTACKED THE DUCKS' POND.
THE MEEK DUCKS COULDN'T EVEN FLY AWAY, SO THEY JUST QUACKED IN TERROR.
EVERYONE WAS CAPTURED.
THE YOUNG KITE WAS CONVINCED SHE WAS JUST AN ODD DUCK AND WAS ALSO CAPTURED, BECAUSE SHE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO FLY.
WHAA?

JUST THEN, IT WAS THE KING OF THE BIRDS WHO SAVED THE DUCKS.
HAWK ...
...
HE WAS A WHITE HAWK.
THE WHITE HAWK BROUGHT HIS SERVANTS, THE DRAGONS, AND IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE FINISHED OFF THE CROWS.
D-DRAGONS...! HAWKS'RE INCREDIBLE! HEY, D'YOU HEAR THAT?! DRAGONS'RE BIRDS!
HAWKS AND KITES ARE SOMETHING LIKE KINSFOLK.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE YOUNG KITE MET ONE OF HER OWN...
...AND REALIZED SHE COULD FLY.
ONE ELF'S HEART, IN THE BAG. ♡
AND THEN, AND THEN ?!
THE WHITE HAWK RAMPAGED AROUND THE KINGDOM, CRUSADING AGAINST THE MURDEROUS CROWS.
NOT ONLY DRAGONS, BUT DUCKS AND EVEN STRAY CROWS WHO HAD REFORMED FOLLOWED THE WHITE HAWK.

THE YOUNG KITE WAS *SPECIAL!*
ONLY SHE COULD FLY IN THE SAME SKY AND FEEL THE SAME WIND AS THE HAWK.
NEITHER THE WILD DRAGONS NOR THE FRAIL DUCKS COULD DO THAT.
OHHHH ♡
WHAT A DREAMY SITUATION! ♡
*FWIT FWIT
*FLAP FLAP
BUT THEN...
...ONE DAY IT HAPPENED.
THE DUCK PRINCESS, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE CROW KING...
...WAS RESCUED BY THE HAWK.
THE TIMID DUCKS...
...WANTED THE WHITE HAWK AND THE DUCK PRINCESS TO MATE SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A STRONG TIE TO THE HAWK.
MY!
OH MY!

THE YOUNG KITE WAS NOT AMUSED.
SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO COULD FLY IN AND FEEL THE SAME SKY AS THE HAWK.
BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER...
SO, THE SULLEN YOUNG KITE...
...TRIED TO DISTRACT HERSELF BY GAZING AT THE SEA.
SOOO WHAT THEN, WHAT THEN?
HMM... WELL...
BY THE SEA, THE KITE MET A YOUNG OWL...
...FROM THE FOREST, WHO WAS SURROUNDED BY SEAGULLS.
THE KITE THOUGHT...
...EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SURROUNDED BY SO MANY SEAGULLS...
...THAT OWL LOOKS...
...LONELY FOR SOME REASON.

WE'RE KIND OF ALIKE...
...GAZING AT THE SAME SETTING SUN.
MAYBE WE CAN BE FRIENDS...
...SHE THOUGHT.
TH...
THE OWL...
...THOUGHT SO, TOO.
HMHM.

OH, THAT GIRL. I SAW HER HEADING TOWARDS THE PIER EARLIER.
REALLY?!
SHE WITH YOU?
YOU'D BETTER HURRY, THEN.
THAT AREA TURNS ROUGH ONCE THE SUN SETS.
ARMED MERCHANTMEN BELONGING TO WANNA-BE PIRATES ARE ALWAYS MOORED THERE.
*ZHOOM
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU CAN GET KIDNAPPED AND SOLD OFF IN SOME FOREIGN LAND...
SO, DO YOU HAVE ANYONE WHERE...
...YOU ARE WHO UNDERSTANDS YOU?
L-LET ME SEE.
MY COMPANIONS ARE ALMOST ALL ORDINARY PEOPLE.
SO WHEN IT COMES TO A MAGIC USER'S FEELINGS...

MHMHMHMHMMM
もじ・もじ
IN UNISON...
!
I SAY IT'S LOVE!
LOVE I SAY!
SAY IT!
I-IT'S NOTHING LIKE...
THEN WHAT'S IT LIKE?
WHY MUST WE DISCUSS THIS?
*WHEP
*SHP SHP
IT'S JUST... HE'S AN ADULT WHO PAID ATTENTION TO ME... AND I KIND OF ENJOYED IT A LITTLE, I GUESS.

*FX: FIDGET

HMMM...
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE GAZED AT THE SEA AND BROADENED OUR MINDS...
...WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK.
BACK TO WHERE THOSE WE CARE ABOUT ARE...
...AND THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT US.
....
YES, WE DO.

*KEEEERN
*KEEEERN
*KEEEERN
GET BACK HERE, YA DAMN KIDS!!
!
*FLAPA
*FLAPA
*FLAPA
WHAT, KIDNAP-PING? PIRATES?
NEAT!
!
THOSE ARE...

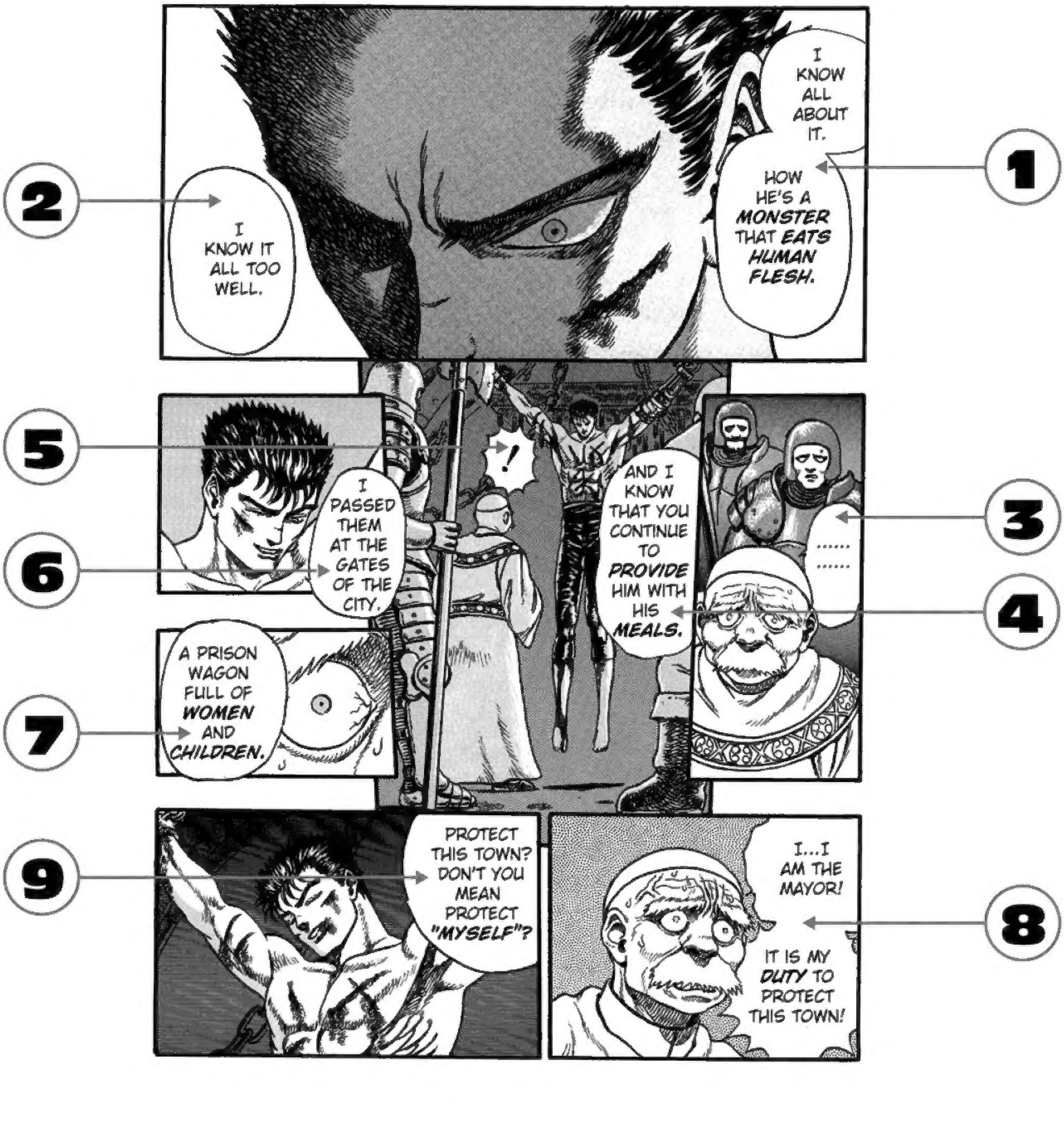
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!!
WASTIN' OUR GODDAMN TIME!
AGHHH!!
QUIT YER CRYIN'!!
DON' MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YA!!
NOW COME ON BACK!
IT'S THE LASH FOR YOU!
STOP RIGHT THERE.
カッ
TAK
AHH?

YOU WILL KINDLY CURTAIL THIS...
...DISPLAY OF INDECENCY AT ONCE.

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!


1
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. HOW HE'S A MONSTER THAT EATS HUMAN FLESH.
2
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL.
3
....
4
AND I KNOW THAT YOU CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH HIS MEALS.
5
!
6
I PASSED THEM AT THE GATES OF THE CITY.
7
A PRISON WAGON FULL OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
8
I...I AM THE MAYOR! IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT THIS TOWN!
9
PROTECT THIS TOWN? DON'T YOU MEAN PROTECT "MYSELF"?

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA

28

ベルセルク
三浦建太郎

Guts, the Black Swordsman, and his companions have finally arrived at the sea, where they discover a mysterious child who seems to share a special bond with Guts and his former lover, the now-mad Casca. The troupe's brief respite at the shore offers moments for quiet introspection and deeper bonding, but such peace is always short-lived where Guts is involved, and Guts must once again don the demonic Berserker Armor to take on a force of bloodthirsty beasts emerging from the once-peaceful surf, possessed by the accursed sorcery of a powerful Kushan enchanter! And who knows what will happen when internal strife pushes a member of Guts' band unknowingly into the comforting companionship of an enemy!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a fearsome assault on the senses, a manga masterpiece that leaves no sensibility unturned and no blade unbloodied. A complex blend of horror, humor, and action, *Berserk* is definitely not for the faint of heart, the weak of stomach, or anyone who still needs to sleep with the lights on!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS